

23rd April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a lovely Easter; it is great to see the pupils back in school, especially as we have had some really lovely weather this week. As we take the opportunity to spend time outside learning whilst we are having some good weather, it is really important that we ensure all our children are protected from the sun's rays. Therefore, can you please ensure that you apply sun cream on sunny days and send in some in a named bag so that we can apply it if necessary.

Today is St George's Day. In previous years we have marked the occasion by having an afternoon tea where we invite parents and friends to join us. This year we will be celebrating in our bubbles with a cream tea, some dancing and playing of traditional games. These activities will take place this afternoon after the newsletter has been sent, so you will see some celebration pictures next week.

Mary and Liz baked some cakes to 'raffle'. It was an 'unpaid raffle' for this event where all names of staff and pupils were given a random number and then using a random number generator the lucky recipients were chosen. This year the winners are Lynette, a staff member, Jack from Blue Class and Jakob from Purple Class. Jack's mum received the cake this morning. As you can see Jack was delighted to win.



Dates for your diary

Monday 4th May-Early May Bank Holiday

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

It has been lovely to see everyone back after the easter holidays bright and rested.

Our topic this term is environments and our sensory story this term is 'The River'. In the story we travel down the river and find different things, our favourite this week was the muddy farm. The muddy farm was made from chocolate custard and we all loved moving it around the tray with our fingers and hands.



Linking to our topic, in art we made some watery pictures using blue and green paint. We sprinkled salt on and rubbed it in which made some cool patterns on the paper.

We had lots of fun in resonance board with Clare this week making lots of noise, we love the all the singing involved and exploring all of the different moving toys that make the board shake.



Alicia, Kim, Amanda, Jackie, Julia, Clare, Maria, Melissa and Emily



Yellow Class

News from Spring Cluster

Welcome back Yellow Class. We hope you all have had a lovely Easter holiday and it's nice to see that everybody has come back super ready to continue learning and working hard. This week Yellow Class has been learning all about St George's Day to be ready for our celebration today. During the week we have made some tasty scones where everybody loved getting their hands messy, especially playing with the flour. We have been learning about positioning: on top, middle and under. They have also created some amazing art scones with velcro for them to practice how to place a piece of scone on top and under and jam and cream in the middle.



Yellow Class has also really enjoyed creating some art decorations for today and learning how to make up and down and across movements to create a cross for St George's Day flag. Each pupil has chosen how to decorate their flags and have decided if they wanted to use pom-poms, paint or glitter.





News from Spring Cluster

This week's highlight has been the resonance board. Everybody is feeling more and more confident to interact and communicate through it. It has been lovely seen everybody react to different volumes of noises and different songs and object that we have incorporated.



Have a wonderful weekend and Happy St George's Day!

Gal, Sally, Emma, Katia and Kerry Ann



News from Summer Cluster

Pink Class

Welcome back to the new term. Pink Class have all returned happy and ready to learn which is great. We have also welcomed a new member to the team, Felicity. She will be working in Pink Class Mondays-Fridays and is enjoying getting to know the class. Welcome Felicity!

Our first week back and we have been busy getting back into routines and introducing some new activities based around our topic. We will be looking at different environments, and as we cannot go out and about explore too much, we are going to make the most of our lovely garden and sensory garden. We will also be using the theme of Australia and all the lovely sensory opportunities within that. One of the stories we will be focusing on this term is an aboriginal folk tale. We will tell you more about it as the term goes on.



The lovely weather this week has meant that we have done a lot of the lessons that usually take place inside outside. This was a very good thing when it came to the use of squirt bottles filled with paint. We also did our sensory circuits sessions outside, not as messy but just as fun. We are really proud at how much more confident all the class have become in exploring a range of equipment. That being said we did have to really practise turn taking when it came to the rocking horse as it was a firm favourite.



Take care,

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



News from Summer Cluster

Blue Class



the book 'Farmer Duck'. Pupils in class particularly enjoy re-enacting the part where the animals work together to tip the lazy old farmer out of bed and onto the floor!

Welcome back everybody, I hope you've been enjoying the summer term sunshine, Blue class pupils certainly have.

It's been fabulous to see every last one of our young people back for the start of this term, and we've hit the ground running successfully.

Our overall theme for this half term is 'Our Environment' (i.e. finding out about where we live not climate change). Kicking it off this week we've been thinking about farms and fields and have been reading



In maths we have been working on fractions and have enjoyed representing these physically with playdough and cartoon characters.

Swimming and P.E. were a hit with all students showing their javelin and athletics skills on the field on Wednesday. One pupil even managed to independently swim twelve lengths of the pool!

We're rounding up the week and heading into the weekend with our big St George's Day celebration and I look forward to sharing more pictures about it with you next week.

Please don't forget of course to continue reading with your young people at home and don't hesitate to leave a comment if you feel ready for a new book.

Wishing you a very happy weekend.

*From Richard, Kia, Sarah, Ellie and Helen,
~ The Blue Class Team*





News from Summer Cluster

Purple Class

Wow! What a start to Term 5! We have been busy in Purple Class and I don't think we are all even out of the holiday mode yet! It has been great to welcome back all the students and see everyone settle back in so well, even if we have all been a little shellshocked this week. We have continued to wash our hands and use our sanitizer.

We started the week with a great swim and continuing with our virtual Panathlon tasks and individual targets. Students are rising to the challenge and everyone has made great progress in the water.

The Communication Group worked on Road Safety this week following with handwriting practice and shape/letter formation. Students are really focussing much better and listening to instruction. The Enterprise Group meanwhile made scones in preparation for St George's Day celebrations. We have listened to some St George stories, about St George slaying the dragon and a different story about a rather brave mouse, but we also found out that St George was in fact, actually a Roman soldier who helped Christians.

Our new topic this term is about 'The Environment' and the world around us and this week we started with a focus on England (*leading up to St George's Day*) and where it is in the world. We looked at the shape and features of our country and the United Kingdom. Some students were able to find the UK on the world map. We have looked at the countries that make up the UK. We looked at the Globe also and watched video footage of the UK from space! Jakob and Kayah took responsibility to change our class display by moving 'The Eatwell Guide' display into the Common Room as it is still very important and then adding our maps to the new class display.

On Wednesday students made decorations for the St George celebrations producing flags and bunting and continued with their individual targets. Students also helped to prepare their Accreditation files and were able to look back on some of the great work they have produced.

We are all excited at the prospect of returning to OXSRAD soon but this week the students had another session of social dance routine and a game of Curling in the main hall.

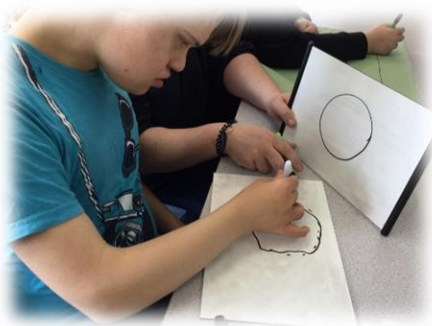
Finally, this Friday students had a break from cooking, but all enjoyed sausages, chips and beans prepared lovingly by Mary. We celebrated Shakespeare's birthday with another film session of Romeo & Juliet and hope to enjoy the afternoon St George celebrations and activities with our friends!

Happy weekend everyone!

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



News from Summer Cluster





News from Autumn Cluster

Orange Class

We have started this term by thinking about our immediate environment. In Literacy, we are sharing a book called **Window** and we have used the idea of looking through our own 'windows' to explore the environment around school. We held up our viewfinders and looked through to see what we could see!



We have been on the field too, as the PE coaches have been back in school. We have worked on running skills, javelin and the standing jump in preparation for Sports Day. It was good to see the children listening carefully to the coaches and trying their hardest with each skill. Well done, Orange Class!



Finally, we have spent some time this week preparing for the school's St George's Day celebrations on Friday. We shared the story of St George, made decorations and baked scones ready for our party.



Have a lovely weekend,
Rachael, Tracy, Caitlin, Beccie and Ellie.



News from Autumn Cluster

Red Class

Welcome to Term 5, what amazing weather we have had to welcome us back. The children have really enjoyed their playtimes and their PE lessons in the sunshine. The children have been practising their traffic awareness and carpark safety so that they can arrive and leave school more independently. They were all very confident when we practised on Monday afternoon and we hope that they will use these skills before and after school.

Lots of hard work has taken place too. We are having a real focus on reading together this term and the children have really impressed us with their enthusiasm and focus. David has been the best book detective in the class, spotting clues that nobody else has seen hiding in the pictures. We have been learning to count in 10's this week but starting from different numbers, which can be tricky. Richard spotted a pattern on the 100 square to help us – Did you know that if you start at number 3 and move your finger down to 13 you are counting in 10s? Well spotted Richard, they have all been practising hard, even backwards! What a smart lot they are.

Camron has impressed us this week with his phonics knowledge and really using it in class to help with his reading. The other child that has been very clever this week is Leythan; we were amazed by his bravery and persistence in the swimming pool. Those first five metres are always the trickiest and he was just brilliant. Keep up the good work boys.

A big thanks to all of you that sent in your recycling boxes and packages. We have nearly used them already so if anybody has more, we would love to have them please. The children have been really creative and have enjoyed making buildings, not just with cardboard packaging but Lego and bricks too. If they do any amazing building at home, please email us the pictures so that we can share them with the rest of the class.

Happy St. George's Day to everyone and look out for our celebration photos next week.



Have a great weekend.
*Lorna, Nicola, Laura,
Pauline and Jo*





News from Autumn Cluster

Gold Class

I hope that you enjoyed the Easter Break. We have had a great week and it was lovely to welcome Zenun back to school and also a new Teaching Assistant, Brittany. Our new topic is Towns and Villages and we are especially looking at towns and villages in our local area. We have used laptops and Google Maps to look at Abingdon and local places of interest. Many students recognised photos of buildings in the town centre and they were surprised to hear that Abingdon is claimed to be one of the oldest inhabited towns in the country.

We had P.E outside with the coaches and are doing running, jumping and throwing in Athletics this term. Students enjoyed participating in a relay race and learnt how to pass the baton quickly to the next person. They also swam this week and Angela was really pleased with how well they listened and swam after a few weeks off.

You may have heard that we are also really excited to welcome two Class pets, Giant African Snails who arrived today! They have been officially named Snelly and Tim! Tim is the smaller one. They have a nice new tank with a log to hide under and have had some fresh lettuce to eat. Fortunately, they are fairly quiet pets, but students have been fascinated to watch them.

On Friday (tomorrow), we are celebrating St George's Day with fun and games, scones with jam and cream and a parade on the field. We will have Aunt Sally, cricket and football to choose from on Friday afternoon.





News from Autumn Cluster



Have a lovely weekend,

From Maria, Tess, Julie, Esther and Brittany



News from Winter Cluster

Silver Class

Wow! What a great first week back after Easter for Silver class!

We have been working hard in Maths, learning about fractions. The children really enjoyed our pizza activity, cutting the pizzas in halves and quarters and of course eating them. This week we have also been learning about farms, the children have loved our new sensory story 'Farmer Duck' all about a duck who does all the work on the farm. We loved exploring all things about farms and impressed the staff with our roleplay skills, playing with farm animals, ducks and fishes. We enjoyed 'helping' them swim in the water.



We have also been busy practicing our ball skills in PE. We have been kicking, throwing and catching the ball. All the children tried really hard with all the different skills.

We continued our busy week with cooking. We have made scones for our St. George's day celebrations and coleslaw. All the children had a go at grating carrots, cabbage and onions and mixing together with mayonaise. We all tasted it and some of us even liked it! This week we have welcomed two new TAs to our lovely team. Ellie, who was working in another Kingfisher class and Brittany who is new to our school.

We wish you all hopefully a very sunny and warm weekend.

Leann, Tina, Zoe, Ellie and Brittany



News from Winter Cluster

White Class

Welcome back everyone!

The children have settled right back in after a well needed restful easter break. Our topic this term is environment, within Literacy this week, we started reading 'Farmer Duck'. The children have been tasting, smelling, touching, listening, and looking at different story props, for example, listening to animal sounds, laying on the farmers bed, tasting the farmers snacks etc. The children have been matching pictures of animals to toy animals and creating sentences from story pictures e.g. the duck is carrying a basket. In mark making lessons, the children have been working on their pencil control, using their tripod grip to make a trail for the duck to get back to his bed, they have also been exploring mark making in brown paint (mud).

In cooking lessons this term, we are focusing on grating. This week we made coleslaw. The children enjoyed the repetitive motion and the sound of different vegetables grating. We also made scones (see photos below), which we plan to eat for our St George's Day celebration with jam and cream. In topic we have been focusing on farm environments and learning how to play with farm sets. We have also been working on our 'I see' sentences. In science we have been exploring different weathers, the children started to explore sun and rain (see photos below), with objects and materials that relate to the two weathers. The children loved the spray of water and the popping of bubble wrap.

Within Phonics we have been working on the letter **d** and we have also been identifying instruments and environmental sounds. In art, we made St George's Day cards, the children have decided what material they wanted and what colour, out of red and white, to decorate the England flag. Within PE, we have been doing a sensory circuit every morning, swimming lessons we have been working on collecting toys in the water, becoming confident moving around the water.

We hope you have a great weekend!

Jemma, Katie, Ali, Niki, Ellie and Christina





News from Winter Cluster

Black Class

Welcome back to the summer term everyone! We have been delighted that the sun has been out for our first week back giving us lots of opportunities for outdoor learning activities.

Our new topic for this half term is all about 'environments.' For the next two weeks we will be focusing on a farm and we kicked it off with 'Farmer Duck' in Literacy. The children really enjoyed exploring the sensory props this week. We introduced some simple role play into our story session this week and the children practiced tiptoeing around the room as the animals do in the story. We all had lots of fun 😊 in our comprehension session we practiced making 'I hear _____' sentences listening to do the different sounds that you might hear at the farm.



In Topic we explored farms through sensory and small world play using communication boards to comment alongside our play. We could not resist doing water play outside in the sunshine which everyone really enjoyed.

Our focus in Cooking this term is to practice using a grater with a variety of different ingredients. This week we made coleslaw and used the grater to grate the vegetables. I can certainly see that lots of Black Class have used a grater at home before as most children knew exactly what to do. If you would like to practice this skill at home this would be a great addition!

I hope you all manage to make the most of the brighter weather this weekend,

Katie, Amelia, Olivia, Teresa and Brittany

Community Links



60-Second Vegtastic Lunchbox Hacks

Veg are a key part of a healthy diet but it can be a real struggle to get kids to eat enough of them. Adding an extra portion or two to their packed lunch will help to up their intake. Try these simple ideas to **veg-pack their lunchboxes** with limited faff.

The basic toolkit:

- 🔥 **Containers** (small and lidded for dips, leftovers and more)
- 🔥 **Cutlery** (if needed)
- 🔥 **Thermos** (any heat-retaining flask is great for soups, baked beans, leftovers, etc.)
- 🔥 **Bamboo kebab sticks** (optional, but helpful for making veggies more fun)



Top tip: Know your portions – a child's portion of veg is roughly 50g or what fits into a child's hand.



kids
fruit



#LunchboxHacks
@VegPowerUK
f i t
For recipes, tips and
free downloads visit:
vegpower.org.uk

VEGPOWER

5 easy #LunchboxHacks to add more veg in 60 seconds or less:



1. The Salad-on-a-Stick

Get a bamboo kebab stick and thread on different veg such as cherry tomatoes, cubed cucumber, cubed cooked beetroot, chunks of peppers, raw button mushrooms, crunchy lettuce, etc) in fun colours. If your child isn't a fan of veg, try starting off by alternating veg with cooked meat, cubed cheese, etc to ease them into it.



My Favourite veg was:

2. The Lunch Crunch

1 carrot chopped into sticks (or pre-chopped carrot sticks) with a pot of hummus (or their favourite dip) adds a portion of veg.



I ate this many carrots:

3. The Sandwich Slice

Slice 5cm cucumber (about the length of a small egg) and add to a sandwich for an extra portion of veg with minimal effort.



I ate this much cucumber:

4. The Helpful Handful

Add a handful of ready-to-eat snacky veg to a container. Try cherry tomatoes, drained tinned sweetcorn, celery sticks, green beans, cucumber etc.



My Favourite veg was:

5. The Half-Baked Plan

Heat through half a tin of baked beans (ideally low sugar and salt) and stick in a heat-retaining flask for an easy veg portion win.

Top tip: Keep trying! If they are not used to veg in their packed lunch, it may be picked out and ignored on the first few days. The more they see it and interact with it, the more the veg becomes "normal".

This week my rating is:

For recipes, tips and
free downloads visit:
vegpower.org.uk