NEWSLETTER

Kingfisher

22nd October 2021

WORLD'S BIGGEST

COFFEE MORNING

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2021. We hope that you will see what your children have been doing over the last term, you should also be receiving updates via EviSense. If you are unable to log onto your account, please let us know and we will be able to sort that our for you. We are also still using our Facebook Parents and Carers page, and if you would like to access that, please join the group and an admin will approve your request once the questions have been answered.

We have arrived at the end of the first term of 2021-2022 and it is evident that the classes have been as busy as usual. Whilst we are not having many off site activities, we have still carried on with lots of fun and educational activities.

It was great to see so many parents at our sports day in September and we were really lucky with the weather. On this day we also held our Macmillan

Coffee 'event'. Purple Class baked and sold the cakes and we also had the privilege of having Blues and Roots Ensemble play in our Sensory Garden. We raised over £92, which is amazing.



We continued with the cake theme last week where we raised over £145 for Helen and Douglas House. This is a charity that is dear to us, as it helps support some of our pupils and their families.

Red Class invited me to join their picnic to watch the ladies 'Tour of Britain' cycle through Abingdon. It was a really exciting event, made even better with a picnic.

We are already using the other 'C' word.... Christmas. We are hoping to have 'live' sessions in school, however if that is not possible, we will produce a video for you to watch at home. We will let you know nearer to the date once we know how we plan to run this.

Have a great half-term holiday, we look forward to seeing all pupils on Monday 1st November.

Lorraíne

Our Kingfisher View

Kingfisher-a place where everyone is valued to develop independence through an enriching curriculum which is worthwhile



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Yellow Class

What a fantastic term Yellow Class has had. The class has worked really hard and there has been great improvements on their targets. One of the highlights of this term has been the resonance board, we have incorporated sensory balls to the bit of Trolls and colourful scarfs to the sound of colours of the wind. Rice for thunder song has been a regular favourite and everyone loved tapping the board to see the rice jump.

Another favourite has been sensory play. This term we had the choice of exploring our favourite toys combined with Jasmine scented blue rice and Ylang Ylang scented sensory green pasta. A big shoutout to Sienna and Ada who have done incredible work finding their favourite toys from big bowls of sensory play and done fantastic grasping and releasing of the toys.

Everybody has worked really hard on their physio program this term and we have had weekly sessions all together with our therapist. Willow has done incredible box sitting and Alessandra did an amazing cross leg for up to 20 minutes wearing her brace.

This term we have done a lot of sensory play and as you can see on the photos some of them have been really messy, but everyone has done great at playing with new mix of textures. Roman is doing incredible at using hand over hand with his spoon and choosing his snack. Francesca has been working independently on the majority of the activities and her walking and stair walking has really improved.

VI has also been a great lesson in which everyone has really enjoy and improved tracking high motivation toys. Isla has done incredible tracking and her visual skills are really showing off. This term we really enjoyed doing dance and exploring under the sea. Finally, we also had a visit from a music band that played live music for us and we all gathered in the garden to enjoy it.

Gal, Sally, Emma, Katia and Kerry Ann







































Green Class

It has been lovely to see everyone back from the summer holidays, well rested and excited to learn. This term we have been learning about ourselves and exploring our emotions. Our Sensory story has been The Colour Monster, in this story we have been exploring different emotions through music and colours. For example for fear we listen to spooky music and explore black slime.



Continuing with our topic we have been exploring our bodies in Atmospherics. As the fabric floats onto our bodies we practice moving underneath it and connecting to multiple body parts. This term we have been doing really well at enaging for longer periods of time and watching the coloured fabric closely as it falls.







We have had lots of fun in resonance board this term sharing a space and activities with our friends. We have been practicing catching balls and cars as they are rolled across the board, our favourites have been the pull back cars as they are really fast. During these lessons, we communicate by banging on the board and using lots of intensive interaction exploring the different noises we can make with our hands.





This term some of us have had the opportunity to go horse riding, during these lessons we practice our balance and we are really good at holding on.





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



Pink Class

It has been a wonderful start to the academic year in Pink Class. As always the term has seemed to go so quickly but we are very, very proud of what the students have achieved. The whole term has had a strong focus on emotions and ourselves. Our central story for the term has been 'The Colour Monster'. The 'monster' has all his emotions mixed up at the beginning of the story and as the story unfolds each emotion is looked at individually. We did this by each emotion having some form of sensory input as well as a response for the students to learn. It has been wonderful to see across the term that each student has developed a favourite section of the story and we were particularly impressed with the learnt responses.

The anger section of 'The Colour Monster' story seemed by far the most popular as students explored the 'fire' of anger through switch work, red textures and using the boom whackers. The boom whackers were a real highlight as everyone in the group made progress in one way be it filling pauses, grasping objects or using both hands together.

The Colour Monster story was also used to guide our work in Sensory Cooking and Art. Each emotion in the story is represented by a colour and so each week we explored a different colour as part of our sessions; the blue week and blueberries being a highlight. In Art we worked on choosing colours, using our individual preferred methods, to paint a colour monster.

In Art, we have also focused on images of ourselves. We have explored mirror play throughout the term. The mirror toys have resulted in some lovely play opportunities with peers as well as to develop hand function. However primarily we have been using mirrors to explore our own image, pulling funny faces and copying adults' expressions in play. We have discovered that sticking tongues out to song is a very funny and popular game in Pink Class. This focus on our faces in Art, painting ourselves and creating multi-textured collages of our pictures, has really supported us in identifying our own picture as part of our Good Morning sessions when we see who is in school.

Play has been a big part of our learning this term. It has helped us settle back into school, class and develop our relationships with staff and peers. We have been so impressed by how motivated the whole class has been by water play this term. The developing hand function and confidence when standing has been evident as the students explore pouring water down the shoots. Everyone's favourite week seemed to be the week we were focusing on the colour red and jelly was added into the mix. Pink class smelt particularly amazing that day.

The final part of the curriculum that was heavily focused on the topic of emotions was this term's massage story. In a similar way to The Colour Monster each emotion was explored separately through touch, music, lights etc. They key part of these sessions is the communication between the student and



the adult delivering the massage. By the end of the term every student had made progress during these sessions be it through reduced defensive behaviours, increased attention span or becoming more independent in preparing for the session. We are all looking forward to next term's sensory story with all the sensory delights that the season will bring.

We had a lovely treat this term when some musicians visited us. The weather was extremely kind and we were able to set up the garden 'festival style'. The sun was shining and the jazz group played to us all afternoon moving in and out of the students and allowing them to really experience the music. A great afternoon was had by all, thank you very much to the parents who joined us for this event.

As you would expect, this special event was not the only time music was a big focus for us. Every student in pink class is a big fan of music. The piano and drums are played daily, both in formal learning sessions and when a student chooses to during their break. Our new music basket has proved a popular addition allowing us to explore instruments from around the world. The resonance board, dancing with Gina, phonics sessions are just some of the ways we are continuing to explore communication through something we enjoy so much.

We hope that you and your families have a fantastic half term. We can't wait to see how your children surprise us next term with all the lovely thing they achieve.

Have a wonderful half term,

Tor, Julie, María, Sue, Líza, Norah, Felícíty, Sarah and Daniel.

















Orange Class

This September Orange Class welcomed some children who were new to Kingfisher. After just a few weeks in school, they have found their feet and settled in extremely well. The children have spent time becoming familiar with the new environment and routines, as well as learning to work with the adults and other children in the class.



Our topic this term has been 'Ourselves' and we have been looking in mirrors, noticing ourselves and identifying features, such as eyes, nose, mouth and ears. The children have been matching their photo to their name, which has also helped them in the classroom environment as they find their chairs, coat pegs and trays – all labelled with their name and picture. We sing 'Good Morning', 'Good Afternoon' and 'Goodbye' every day, signing and naming each person as we do so, which has helped us to learn each other's names too.

We had great fun looking at our reflections and concentrated hard when naming the parts of our face.





Developing communication skills is a huge part of our daily learning in Orange Class. Being able to ask for the things that we want or need is really important, so we have been working on exchanging a photo of an item that we would like in order to make a request. The children begin each day with choosing time. We provide photos of familiar toys and they have to exchange the picture of the item to get the toy that they would like. In other activities, such a play dough, exchanging a picture is a way to make choices about colour or the shape of a cutter. We also exchange photos to make choices at snack time.







Other activities support our learning in maths and literacy. This term we have had a focus on Number in maths, moving beyond reciting numbers by rote and starting to count out a given amount of objects. This is something that you could practise together at home whenever you find opportunities to count items out loud. Our phonics work has focused on initial letter sounds, particularly the first letter of our names, and has happened as part of different motivating activities, such as sensory play and during our time in the ball pool. We have shared books related to our topic with *From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle and *Things I Like* by Anthony Browne being a couple of favourites that you may choose to revisit at home.



What a busy term for all of the children in Orange Class! Well done for a fabulous start to the school year and thank you for your hard work. I am sure there will be lots more excitement as we embark on our new topic of *Celebrations* next term.

Have a great half term break, Rachael, Tracy, Katie, Beccie and Tina.



Gold Class

It has been a very busy term in Gold Class. We welcomed three new students from Red Class (Holly, Alex and Richard), who have all transitioned well and seem to have been ready to move up a class. All three pupils took the changes in their stride and have fitted in perfectly.

Everyone enjoyed looking back at photos of each other when younger and students have created timelines and talked about key events in their lives as they have grown and developed. In history lessons, we went back further than their living memory as far back as the 1960s and have learned about music, fashion, and gadgets at home in the following decades. They have loved some of the music from bands such as The Beatles, Abba, Duran Duran and The Jackson Five to name but a few. It was surprising how many tracks they recognised from films etc. and were able to sing and dance along. We are hoping to share some of our favourite tracks with you at Christmas time. Esther has been amazing at bringing in clothes from the different decades to see, feel and even try on.

Sports day was a highlight of the term, and it was great to finally be able to invite families into school to share the fun with us. Gold Class were very enthusiastic competitors and had a blast participating in the events. We have also continued to do Archery lessons this term, where the pupils have developed stronger techniques and much greater accuracy using a bow and arrow. The older pupils in class are doing Archery as a new skill for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

One of my favourite parts of the week must be our science lessons and it has been good to see the class showing a keen interest in our scientific enquiry. We have been learning about the body - the skeleton and our senses. We have carried out investigations to test sight, hearing, smell and taste. We were a little unlucky as a few students were still unable to smell or taste after being poorly. However, they are beginning to learn how to make a prediction and carry out a test and collect results.

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone most of the work on Relationship and Sex Education until next term when hopefully we will have a visitor in school to co-facilitate our lessons. Our work on emotional self- regulation through The Zones Of Regulation continues. We have worked on improving understanding of our emotions in the different zones and developing strategies that help individuals regulate so that they are calmer and ready to learn. It is important to know that there are no 'bad' Zones, and we all experience all of them at some point. The important part is to understand how we should behave in different situations and what we can do to make ourselves feel better/ calmer and more focussed.

The following photos show a few of the highlights of the term:

Have a lovely week over Half Term. From María, Tess, Julíe, Esther and Tína

















Red Class

What an exciting start we have had to the new school year in Red Class. We had to say goodbye to some of our old friends who are having lots of fun in Gold Class now. We also had to welcome some new class members too. Jessica and Hector have joined our class and have fitted right in. They have been busy learning all the new routines and ways of working. They are particularly enjoying some of the very important jobs such as taking the register and delivering messages to the office.



Lorraine Green has now joined our Red Class team, she is teaching science and ICT. The children are really enjoying both. What I have enjoyed most is learning all about their ICT through play. When the children are having some free play time, they can be found being robots. Using all the language and ideas that Lorraine has taught them. My favourite was watching Henry and David. Henry was the robot and David was the programmer. Henry walked like a robot and then shut down. David said, 'Oh no, I've got to debug you now'. He then fixed the robot and gave him some instructions to follow. Very clear evidence that are listening and learning carefully in their ICT lessons with Lorraine.







We have also had our first class trip this term. We had a picnic on the grassy area near John Mason school in Abingdon so that we could watch the ladies 'Tour of Britain' cycling race go by. It was a lovely, sunny day and the children definitely enjoyed their picnic. The cycle race was very exciting, there were lots of police motorbikes with sirens and flashing lights to make sure that everyone was safe on and off the road. Then the ladies raced by on their bikes, Lizzie Diegnan one of the best British riders was there but we didn't spot her as it all happened very quickly. After the riders there were lots of team cars with extra bikes for the riders. Lots of the drivers waved, beeped their horns and flashed their lights at us.

We shook our instruments and waved our flags back – it was so much fun. As the class teacher I was so proud of the children as they behaved brilliantly throughout the entire trip. They listened carefully to the adults, they were polite and friendly to other people at the event and kept themselves safe using the 'Green Cross Code by the road. As you can imagine they have already come up with lots of good ideas about where we might go next for a class outing.





We all took part in an amazing Sports day this term. It was so lovely to see some of our parent's there to cheer us on too. The children spent a lot of time practising their skills and were so confident on Sports Day. They were all really proud of their achievements and enjoyed receiving their medals at the end.







Red class have been very lucky to be able to work with Gina the dance teacher this term. All of the children love music and have thrown themselves into learning our first dance routine. Some of you will have seen your children doing this on Evisense. If you haven't yet had a look, it's definitely worth it, they have been impressive. We have learnt a routine to 'Bad Habits' by Ed Sheeran which looks great. As well as learning to dance this has really helped the children with their pattern and sequencing skills in class.



Have a great half term holiday.

Lorna, Laura, Paulíne, Jo and Jennífer.



Silver Class

This term the children in silver class have enjoyed yoga, dancing, football and sensory circuits during our PE and physical activity times. The children have been working together to use a parachute and supporting each other during sensory circuits. We have been practicing turn taking when using equipment and learning how to manipulate our bodies to play games and exercise.



The children have enjoyed learning new sounds in phonics and listening to sounds and working out which object made the sound. We have been matching sounds to pictures and practising phonics through songs. During literacy lessons the children have enjoying learning about the story 'Titch' and 'Growing Up'. The children have used colourful semantics that relate to the stories to create short sentences.



Each child also contributed to our class kite which related to one of our stories this term 'Titch'. The children painted their hand and printed it onto the kite. They then used communication choice boards to choose which material or colour they would like to add to the kite. This kite is now displayed in our classroom and the children love to see their work on the wall!





Silver class have loved sensory play this term. They have taken part in messy play with cornflour, mark making in icing sugar and planting seeds during sensory story. The children enjoyed feeling the materials in their hands, writing in the different substances and sieving, kneading, rolling and scrunching lots of different materials. We planted some seeds to support understanding that this process enables a plant to grow. This related to our theme this term of 'Growing Up' and our story 'Titch'. During these sessions we also practised sharing equipment, turn taking and working with our peers.



Throughout this term we have been using lots of communication aids to support the children in silver class. The children have enjoyed using these to support them create strawberry pie cups, decorated t-shirts and socks, fruit kebabs and rockets. The children have practised following instructions to make their wonderful creations and have been encouraged to let the adult know when they have finished or would like more resources to decorate. During cookery the children have practised their cutting skills to chop up the fruit when making a fruit salad and fruit kebab. Have a lovely half term!

Heather, Brittany, Leann, Ellie



White Class

It's been a great term, focusing on getting the children back into their daily school routines after a restful summer holiday. The children have settled down well and have quickly remembered previous routines. Our topic has been growing up, the children have learnt a lot and shown interest in this topic.

Within communication lesson, we have been challenging the children to observe, request and for some, comment on objects/actions within different activities, such as bubbles, pop up pirate and press and go musical toys. The children have really been motivated to communicate with adults, for example, asking to pop/blow bubbles that are high/low. Within Literacy, we have been reading Titch, You'll soon grow into them Titch, When I'm Grown Up and Pete the Cats Halloween: Trick or Treat. Within these stories we have been looking at what happens when you grow up, the children have been taking part in role play sessions by looking at clothes that are too small, or too big, role playing with babies and requesting items they want to explore. Within literacy lessons, we have been requesting props, identifying pictures within the story book, tracing and copying key words within the story and mark making using different tools. We have linked topic lessons to literacy lessons, sorting and matching pictures of young and older people, we even asked parents to send in photos of their child to sort from baby to child. Within numeracy lessons, we have been focusing on shape, numbers and more and less. The children have been improving and becoming more confident within each lesson.

The children have been enjoying their PE lessons, completing sensory circuits, experiencing alerting, organising, and calming sections. The children have enjoyed dance with Gina, experiencing warm ups and cool downs, within the lesson focusing on actions and repeating them. During swimming lessons with Angela, the children have been focusing on completing skills on the Learn to Swim stage 1-7 awards curriculum. The children loved taking part in sports day, it was great to see so many parents interacting with their children, the course involved running, jumping, throwing, catching and obstacle course stations.

The children have been making amazing pieces of artwork, they have been making and decorating instruments, rockets, chef's hats, papier mache pumpkins and kites. They have also been tie dying t-shirts

and socks, choosing which colours they would like to use. During cooking lessons, we have been following instructions to make a dish, we have made a fruit salad, fruit kebabs, apple pie in a cup, strawberry pie in a cup, pineapple pie in a cup and marshmallow ghost meringues.

We hope you have a great half term break! Jemma, Alí, Níkí, Lynette, Kía and Leann

























Black Class

Happy half term everyone! What a fantastic start to the year it has been with lots of achievements and celebrations. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Black Class on how well they have settled in this year with some changes to their peer group and staff team. Well done everyone 😊

This term our topic has been all about 'Growing Up.' We have explored lots of different stories including 'Titch' and 'When I'm a Grown Up.' We explored different sensory props, practiced our mark making and writing skills and worked on verbs, adjectives, and nouns to build sentences.

One of our highlights from this topic has been exploring our own personal history. The children enjoyed sharing photographs from across the years and commenting on what they could see. Some of the children were even able to identify if they were big or little, or baby or child. We also sorted photographs into groups of young and old, baby and adult.

Cooking this half term has had a very healthy focus as we have been making all things fruity! We made fruit kebabs, fruit salads and apple/ pineapple pie. The focus was to follow either visual or written instructions to promote independence. Everyone has been practicing their independence skills and have particularly improved their tidying up routine ensuring that they wipe down the tables, do the washing up and tidy away the utensils.

In Numeracy this term we have explored shape, number and money. Everyone enjoyed coming to the Black Class toy shop, and engaging in role play. The items were labelled with a picture of coin which the pupils had to find it in the purse and exchange it for their chosen toy. Some children had to make a total with the coins using more than one. Some of us even took on the role of the shop keeper which was lots of fun!

Our final week we have been exploring Halloween. Our sensory story for the week was 'Pete the Cat: Trick or Pete.' We enjoyed exploring the props, using the torches to look for characters and trying on fancy dress clothes. One of our highlights of this week was our messy play session. We hid spiders, pumpkins, and creepy crawlies in jelly for pupils to explore and find. The children really enjoyed this activity (especially those who insisted on tasting the jelly after finding the creatures!)

We also went on a trick or treat hunt with some of the other classes which was great fun. We filled our pumpkin pots with sweets and enjoyed eating them back in the classroom. In Cooking for our Halloween themed week, we made ghost kebabs using meringue nests and marshmallows. Everyone enjoyed making these and unsurprisingly, they went down better than the fruity treats we made in the previous weeks.



We have had some changes to our swimming this term and have been practicing different skills in the swimming pool. Everyone has engaged really well with this, practicing gliding, moving through the water either by swimming or walking, and using the watering can to wet our hair.

Have a brilliant half term everyone and looking forward to more achievements and fun next half term!! Our topic for next half term is 'Communities and Celebrations.' Bring on the Christmas fun!

Katíe, Amelía, Olívía, Megan, Leann





Blue Class

Good afternoon everybody. I hope you've had a fantastic first term as you've settled back into routines with your young people at home. Here at Kingfisher we've been keeping as busy as ever as we've gotten to know our new young people/peers in class.



One of our major highlights this term has been the autumn sports day. It was fantastic to see you all and pupils were thrilled to be able to explore many of the available activities with their families. Some of you, I know, also visited the roots and blues band that was performing outside Pink Class. This again was a brilliant experience for those that attended.



As outlined in the plan that we shared with you in September, we have been focusing on shape, number (place value) and

calculation (addition) in class this term. Pupils have made positive progress, whether identifying and applying shapes to real-life contexts or adding two digit numbers to 100.





In literacy we have explored 4 different stories together as a class including 'When I'm a grown up' by Ann Faundez and most recently 'Trick or Pete' as we approach the end of the month. Our young people loved



listening to the stories before participating in turn using the sensory props and communication boards to hand.

We've had real successes with pupils in the swimming pool this term. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to snap any pictures for you as we've been in the pool ourselves, but we've been impressed by the increasing confidence that a number of our pupils are displaying in accessing the pool and indeed deeper water. For other pupils, there's been development crossing the pool in different styles and directions or demonstrating increased independence in the deep end of the pool.

Another highlight this term has been our

sensory input. Pupils have loved getting mucky with shaving foam, jelly, sand and soil and have evidenced some excellent communication with staff using communication boards. Thanks also for the baby pictures, pupils loved exploring young and old, with one young man in particular memorably pushing a handled-wheelie bag around the room pretending to be an old lady! Whatever you get up to this half term – whether spooky or otherwise – have a brilliant break and we will see you all soon.



From Teresa, Sarah, Ellíe, Zoe and Ríchard,

~ The Blue Class Team





News from Transition Pathway

Purple Class

Purple Class have had a great start to the new academic year. Students settled well and we have continued the term with our usual weekly activities starting the week with a refreshing swim supported by our longstanding volunteer Andy (DoE Leader). Students have attended their Read Write Inc and Phonic groups and have focussed on individual literacy and math work. Students have continued to support each other and have exhibited many acts of kindness towards others.

The Enterprise and Vocations Group have been busy mainly focussing on a variety of jobs helping within school. This has included helping to sort and tidy our outside area and preparing the small allotment garden ready for projects come the spring. Students have helped to tidy and reorganise the Cookery Room cupboards, taking photos and making labels for the doors. Students have supported the charities in school and helped make cakes for the Macmillan Coffee Morning and to support Helen & Douglas House. Some students have focussed on preparing simple snacks for themselves such as making toast and sandwiches. The Enterprise group will be focussing more on raising money in the run up to Christmas next term. Watch this space!

Our topic for the term has been on 'The Human Life Cycle – and how we grow and change. We have looked at the different stages. We have created some individual student life cycles up to teenage stage. Students have made their own personal shield to display in class depicting all the things that they like and are important to them. We found out our individual star signs, looked at the symbols and found out a little about what characteristics we have. We found out a little about some famous black people through history for Black History Month. Most students recognised Michael Jackson! We focused on Roald Dahl Day, found out a little about the author and listened to a lovely story from Gilly. We listened to some poems for National Poetry Day. Some students created a free verse poem about 'Choice' and we all had a giggle putting together some rhyming limericks about staff with students helping with rhyming words! For PSHE, we have thought about respectful relationships and being a good friend. We thought about our future and looked at different jobs that people have. We have considered what jobs we might like to try and created aspiration sheets for our display. Purple Class took a lead in collecting food donations for the Harvest Festival and what a great collection we were able to deliver to a local church. Thank you for all your kind donations!

Students took part and tried their best with Sports Day activities! We have enjoyed a few sessions returning to OXSRAD for the first half of term, however with the ever need to be precautious and keep ourselves safe we have also enjoyed some sessions out in the fresh air as part of our recreation and leisure activities. This has included a trip to Wallingford Town Centre to focus on road safety and staying safe but also to take note of all the shops and businesses in a town centre. We have visited Millets Farm to look at the animals and more recently collect our kindly donated pumpkins. We have also had a lovely trip out to Dorchester Abbey to walk around the beautiful grounds. Students have behaved fantastically when out and about, following instructions and caring and supporting each other. We have also been



News from Transition Pathway

fortunate to continue our visits at Wheels4All where students have been able to exercise via cycling laps around the track in the crisp fresh air.

Finally, we have spent the last week thinking about Halloween and its traditions. Students created some great decorations to decorate the Common Room and we have had a great time carving our kindly donated pumpkins! We would like to wish our students a happy and restful half term!

Purple Class - Leah, Mary, Nícola, Gill, Sían, & Julíe









News from Transition Pathway





