



NEWSLETTER

17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the end of term newsletter which I hope will give you a flavour of what has been happening over the last few weeks at Kingfisher School.

Despite all of the significant challenges we have faced we have managed to operate more or less as usual, and the children have been kept safe, happy and busy in their learning.

I would like to say a thank you to the staff who have worked relentlessly to keep the school operational even when the team has been very depleted and of course to our amazing children who as ever continue to be the real stars of the show.

Talking of stars of the show, the link to the Christmas Performance will be put up on the school website by tomorrow so please do grab a large cup of tea (or a mulled wine if you are feeling festive) a mince pie and a box of tissues and get comfortable for the hour long epic. I promise you won't be disappointed.

Finally, please accept a huge thank you for all of your support and encouragement to the school. Parents and Carers have a very special part to play in ensuring our children and young people are confident and happy coming to school and are in a good place to engage in learning. You have been so understanding when things have been tricky and we have had to close classes at very short notice. This is always a very difficult decision to make so we have totally appreciated your help when it has been necessary.

I wish you a very Merry and restful Christmas and hope that we can all look forward to a happy new year in 2022. Keep yourselves and your loved ones safe.

Kind Regards,

Kate

Our Kingfisher View

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



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News from Sensory Pathway

Yellow Class

It has been such a busy term in Yellow Class. The pupils have all worked fantastically this term and we are so pleased with all their hard work. It has been so lovely for me to return to Yellow class- thank you all for your warm welcome and it has also been a pleasure to welcome Felix to our class this term.

Our topic "Celebrations" enabled Yellow Class to have the opportunity to explore different celebrations that occur, such as Firework's night, Hannukah, Thanksgiving and of course, Christmas! In art sessions, salt dough and paints have been used, to create delightful festive surprises, which we hope you will enjoy, when they are sent home with your child.

Swimming sessions have served as a weekly highlight for all the children in Yellow Class. Felix has loved his weekly swim. All the children work so hard with their physio targets when in the pool. We have seen some super stretching as well as splashing in the swimming pool this term. Our weekly yoga sessions have also provided another excellent opportunity for the children to work on their physio programmes. Well done Yellow class.

Communication is ongoing throughout the day, but in our specific communication sessions, we have seen some really pleasing work from all the children and we have continued to be impressed by their efforts. A special mention must go to Sienna, who looked at me and smiled, as she shook my hand. This was a wonderful moment, and we were all so proud of her. Some of the children have been using communication boards and they are serving as a source of real intrigue. Francesca is starting to show an interest in the communication board, particularly when she can ask for bubbles and her baby doll. Super work.

We have had some super Sensory cooking sessions, where we have seen excellent engagement from the children. Ada enjoyed operating the switch, to turn on the food mixer. Willow showed great concentration in these sessions and used her foot to enable her to operate the switch, that turned on the food mixer. Alessandra loved feeling the flour being sprinkled onto her hands and she tolerated a noisy food mixer. Well done girls.

Our friends from Trinity Church have led some terrific singing sessions with Yellow Class this term. Roman was captivated by the singing and he sat on his chair, whilst listening to the songs. There was also lots of lovely vocalising from the children during our singing sessions. Our friends from Trinity Church have been very impressed by the warm reception that they always receive from the children in Yellow class.

During hand function work Isla and Habibou did super looking and mark making by independently moving their hands through the flour. We were so impressed by how well they focused when doing their mark making-amazing!



News from Sensory Pathway

After lunch the children have been so good allowing us to brush their teeth and some have been doing it by themselves-well done!

We hope that you enjoy looking at some of our photos from this term.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Siobhan, Kerryann, Sally, Emma and Katia





News from Sensory Pathway





News from Sensory Pathway

Green Class

Our Topic this term has been lights and celebrations, we have been learning about lots of different celebrations that happen this time of year. These celebrations include firework night, for this we painted some sparkly colourful pictures and watched lots of videos of firework displays.

We have also been looking at thanksgiving and painting turkeys using red, orange and yellow paint. By November and Thanksgiving all the leaves have fallen off the trees, we have been exploring these in our sensory story and crunching them underneath our feet.



For Hanukkah we have been exploring and watching lots of light up spinning tops, these have been really good for ready steady go games especially on the resonance board.



Lastly, we have been doing lots of Christmas activities this term. In sensory we have been looking at Christmas lights, tinsel and exploring different Christmas scents. We have been tasting some Christmas food including cranberry sauce, some of us really didn't like the taste of this one and were really good at communicating this.

Merry Christmas

Alicia, Kim, Amanda, Jackie, Julia, Clare, Felicity and Tracy



News from Sensory Pathway

Pink Class

It's been a wonderful term for us all in Pink class with everyone engaging with all the festivities connected to our 'celebrations' topic. We have enjoyed experiencing the lights, smells and sounds associated with each festival. We loved the 'bang' of the party poppers recreating the sounds and the colours of the fireworks, the smells, tastes and textures exploring different foods and spices during our sensory cooking, exploration and story sessions and listening to different music surrounding the festivals. In cooking we enjoyed making a mango lassi during Diwali and more recently helping to mix and explore the ingredients for our Christmas cakes.

There has been continued progress during our communication sessions this term, especially during 'hellos'. We are focusing on using communication topic boards in all activities to make choices by either looking at or touching the 'I want' symbol and the symbol or symbols of our choice. Some of us are doing this confidently and independently when shown the topic board. Some of us are also recognizing our visual timetable to understand what we are doing now and next.



We have enjoyed our hand function maths sessions and singing action songs to show body awareness. We have successfully been working on our spatial awareness skills, through activities such as moving different sized and shaped objects from one space to another and in and out of containers, locating switches to create an effect and placing shapes into form board puzzles.

We have all been working hard on our physio targets and making lots of effort in our PE sessions. We have loved taking turns to play skittles and there are lots of smiles when we knock them down. Passing a balloon to each other is also a firm favourite activity, as well as parachute games where we love the feel of the breeze as we sit under the parachute as it floats up and down in the air. There were lots of laughing when we put our cuddly class crocodile on top of the parachute and took turns trying to catch it. We love exploring the PE equipment, such as the sensory tunnel as part of our circuit work. In swimming we are continuing to work hard on our targets and focusing on achieving them. A new activity for us this term has been weekly yoga session. Everyone has been really engaged during the sessions and shown good awareness of different parts of our bodies. Our firm favourite part of each session being the smell of the lavender oil and listening to the soft sound of the chimes. We are all so relaxed at the end of each session it takes several minutes before anyone moves!



News from Sensory Pathway



Music has been a lovely focus for us this term. We have listened to music associated with the different celebrations, such as Diwali dance music and Christmas carols and songs surrounding Christmas. Added to this we have been lucky to have Trinity Choir visiting us once a week. Our class piano continues to be a great success and we enjoy using our free time to sit and play music together and listen to each other playing as well.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

*Julie, Tor, Maria Swanson, Sue, Liza, Norah, Sarah
,Daniel and Maria Johnson.*





News from Core Pathway

Orange Class

Our children have continued settling into Orange Class and we are now a well-established little team! As well as having lots of time to learn through play, the children in Orange Class have been developing the skills they need to listen and focus as a group when we share a story, for example, or to work and play alongside one another. We have been practising sharing and turn-taking too 😊



This term our topic has been ***Celebrations***, which has given us plenty of scope to explore some familiar times that are special to us, as well as to discover some new celebrations.



We began with thoughtful activities in November, making our poppies for Remembrance Day, which were displayed with writing and artwork from other children in the school. Some of our children have celebrated birthdays this term and we have found out about bonfire night and Diwali too. Of course, Christmas is fast approaching and we have been busy preparing our performance, making Christmas crafts and singing Christmas songs. Jingle Bells has been a particular favourite (thank you to Clare for playing the guitar for us) and the children have loved jingling their bells as we sing! Perhaps this has been our favourite celebration of all!





News from Core Pathway

Christmas crafts with plenty of glitter and 'jingle all the way!'.



We have made Christmas cards for our families which we are very proud of! This gave another good opportunity to practise our communication skills when choosing items to stick onto the cards. The children have been using communication boards, along with pictures and symbols, to support their use of language during our craft activities.



Please look out for our contribution to the school Christmas production which you will be able to see online this year. The children had fun making our film and loved seeing themselves on screen. We, as staff, are very proud of them and I'm sure you will be too!

Happy Christmas from us all in Orange Class!

Rachael, Beccie, Tracy, Emily, Ellie, Julie and Charlotte



News from Core Pathway

Gold Class

Gold Class have enjoyed exploring our topic this term– The Weather. Pupils have looked at weather reports and forecasts and recognise the symbols that are used in a digital weather forecast. They have monitored our own weather by recording daily temperatures and measuring rainfall. They worked in pairs to create a weather forecast, which we video recorded.

They have also learnt lots about the difference between hot and cold countries around the World. They realise that the colder climates are near the North or South Pole and the hotter climates are closer to the Equator. We have looked at maps and a globe to find some of these countries. We have used Meercat Mail, a lovely picture to introduce finding information about a desert and finding out which animals can live there. We also looked at a book about Ernest Shackleton, who explored the polar regions and travelled from pole to pole in snowy, icy conditions. Many pupils know some differences between Arctic and Antarctica. They all made a climate model in a shoe box with some pupils choosing to create a polar scene and a few did a desert or rainforest in a box.

Our maths lessons have been great this term. We have been doing calculations, fractions, measuring and telling the time.

We have completed our 3 months doing soft archery, which has been great fun. Students have also had the opportunity to try something new recently by joining a yoga class this term. Gold Class have really enjoyed this and have been learning yoga poses and balances followed by a relaxation at the end of the session.

Cooking has remained a favourite in our Class and we have continued to make things that they could do at home and make for lunch or a snack e.g. pizza, pasta or toasted sandwiches.

In music this term we have been focussing on percussion and for our Christmas performance we have been singing songs from the 60s, 70s and 80s, which you will get to see in the filmed performance.

Have a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year!

From Maria, Tess, Esther, Julie, Tina and Sarah



News from Core Pathway

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





News from Core Pathway

Red Class

Another busy term has rushed by the children have been full of enthusiasm and enjoyed their learning. Lorraine Green has taught the children all about the seasons and weather in science. They have installed lots of interesting gadgets around the school grounds to measure the weather in different ways. They particularly enjoyed exploring the autumn leaves at playtime.



The children have been learning lots of ICT skills on the laptops and tablets this term. Lorraine has been using lots of activities on 'Purple Mash' with the children. We will send you the links and passwords in the New Year so that they can share their learning with you all at home.



I have been very impressed with the children's developing physical skills this term. They have enjoyed archery, ball skills, small apparatus and gymnastics with the coaches. They work so hard to develop their skills and keep practising and improving every week. Some of the challenges have been quite tricky but all the children have persevered and met all the challenges that have been asked for them.

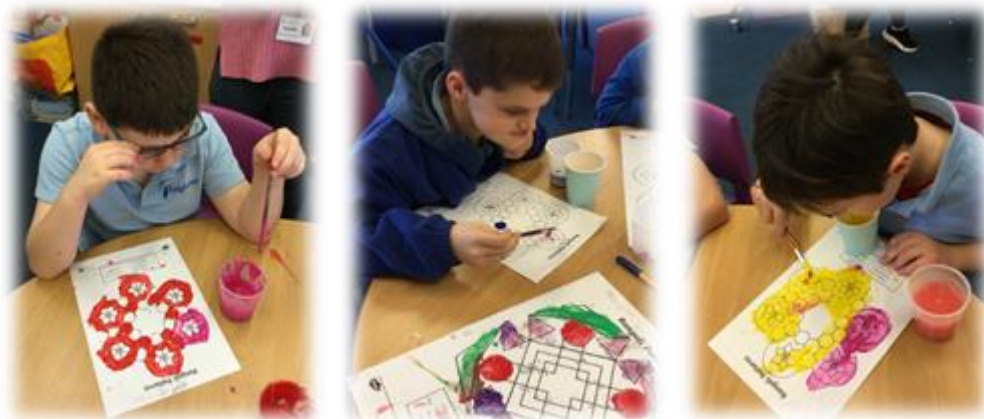


News from Core Pathway



As well as being successful in their PE lessons Red Class children have made excellent progress in their swimming this term. Angela and Dawn have been working so hard with them and they have all been super stars.

During our art lessons this term we have been exploring different kinds of patterns called Rangoli patterns, these are a huge part of the Diwali festival and the children have worked carefully to reproduce the patterns and stay inside the lines, keeping their painting neat and focused.



As you can imagine, over the last couple of weeks we have been busy making lots of exciting things for Christmas, which we hope you will like. We have also been busy practising and performing our Christmas play which you will be able to see very soon.

All the staff in Red Class would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lorna, Laura, Pauline, Jo and Jennifer.



Silver Class

News from Communication Pathway



During term 2 the children enjoyed making lots of different snacks during cooking. We made firework cookies, Indian sweets, dreidel pastries, marshmallow snowman sticks and cornflake Christmas puddings. The children needed to follow the instructions to make each tasty snack – the best part was eating them of course!



One of our favourite parts of the week is listening to our sensory story. The children enjoy immersing themselves in the various sensory resources whilst hearing the story. We then engage the children in activities relating to the story, with strong links to their communication targets.

This term the children have enjoyed focusing on these stories; 'Festival of Colours' (a story with a Holi/Diwali theme), 'The Hannukah Mice' (a story with a Hannukah theme), 'Aliens love Panta Claus' and 'Dear Santa' (our most recent Christmas theme!) One of their favourite parts of 'Dear Santa' was the hidden flaps which reveal a present on each page... this made us very excited for Christmas!



News from Communication Pathway



Art is one of our favourite things to do in silver class and the children have created some fantastic masterpieces this term relating to our 'Communities and Celebrations' topic. We have made firework straw art by blobbing paint onto black paper and blowing through a straw to spread it around. We have created paper plate Diya's, spinning top paint pictures, lollipop stick Stars of David, Salt dough decorations and Christmas cards. Lots of these lovely pieces of art are coming home in the final week so that you are able to celebrate your child's wonderful work with them. During these art lessons the children are able to choose the resources and colours they would like to use to enable them to practise their communication. It also supports their fine motor skills development and it is great to see them feeling proud of something they have created.



In term 2 silver class took part of lots of messy, sensory play activities including coloured icing swirls, painting bread with food colouring, lentil/rice play, herb scented playdough, snow messy play and candy cane gloop with cornflour. One of their favourite and most engaging activities was playing with ice cubes. The children enjoyed holding them in their hands, eating them, making them melt and adding food colouring to them. We talked about how they were very cold and what happens when you warm up the ice.

We have had a wonderful term in silver class and would like to wish all of our friends and families a very happy Christmas and a happy, healthy new year!

Heather, Brittany, Leann, Ellie



News from Communication Pathway

White Class

It's been a busy and productive term, our topic has been communities and celebrations, the children have learnt a lot and shown interest in this topic and have really enjoyed learning about the celebration's different communities have.

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. Within Literacy, we have been reading festival of colours, The Hannukah Mice, Alien loves Santa paws and Dear Santa. Within these stories we have been looking at how different communities celebrate special events such as Holi, Hannukah and Christmas. 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, exploring the herbs and typical food eaten in these celebrations, powder play, spin the dreidel, making Christmas decorations and having a Christmas party. Within numeracy lessons, we have been focusing on time, numbers, positional and comparative language. 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 warmups 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 have also been working hard to produce some great videos for the Christmas play. We can't wait for you to watch it; we hope you are as pleased with it as we are!

The children have been making amazing pieces of artwork, they have been blowing through straws to make firework straw art, painting and decorating paper plate Diya's, Christmas paper plates, salt dough Christmas decorations, lollipop stick star of David, dreidel spinning top paint splatters and Christmas cards. During cooking lessons, we have been following instructions to make a dish which could be eaten during the celebration we are learning about, we have made marshmallow snowman, cornflake Christmas pudding, cake pop bauble, dreidel pastries, Indian sweets, and firework cookies.

We hope you have a merry Christmas break!

Jemma, Ali, Niki, Lynette, Kia, Libby and Leann



News from Communication Pathway





News from Communication Pathway

Black Class

Happy Christmas everyone! We have had a brilliant term in Black Class, working hard and having lots of fun! Our topic this term was 'Celebrations and Communities.' We learnt about Diwali, Hannukah and Christmas.

We explored a variety of different stories including 'Festival of Colours', 'Hannukah Mice' and 'Dear Santa.' Most of us practiced tracing and copying whilst some of us practiced spelling topic related words. We continued to practice comprehension skills including building sentences using verbs and adjectives. As part of Literacy this term, we practiced using different writing layouts and made Christmas lists for Santa.

In Numeracy this term we continued to work on number, counting and calculation as well as our understanding of time in simple terms. We explored 'more' and 'less' using different resources.

Topic this term was lots of fun and we explored food associated with different celebrations. We tasted, smelt, and explored different spices as part of Diwali, latkes as part of Hannukah and mince pies when learning about Christmas. The children practiced using communication boards to comment and build opinions. We certainly heard 'yummy' and 'I like it' when tasting the special Christmas chocolates and gingerbread men.

In Art we made a variety of different pieces associated to different celebrations. We made diya lamps, rangoli patterns, menorah, dreidels and a whole variety of Christmas related crafts. In Cooking we made foods related to different celebrations including Indian sweets, dreidel pastries and marshmallow snowman. Everyone in Black Class have become very good at following visual recipes. Well done everyone



This term we have been using the zones of regulation to talk about our feelings. I want to make a special mention for everyone in Black Class. We have been using the zones of regulation twice daily to indicate how we are feeling. Some children are even beginning to comment on why they feel a certain way. Now that we have spent a whole term together, we are seeing new friendships form and Black Class's play skills are improving.

On a final note, we were lucky enough to have a special visit from Elfy the elf who came to check we were working hard. He made sure that we completed our work, followed instructions and played nicely together. After spending all of December with us, he sent us a special letter today. It's not a surprise that we have all made it to the nice list! 😊

We hope that you enjoy watching the Christmas performance video. We certainly had a lot of fun making it! Have a brilliant break, spending time with loved ones and celebrating Christmas. Merry Christmas!

From

Katie, Amelia, Olivia, Sophie



News from Communication Pathway





News from Communication Pathway

Blue Class

Blue Class



Hello everyone and merry Christmas. We hope you've all had a good few weeks. It has been a good term for us here in Blue Class with as we have collectively overcome obstacles and achieved well

We hope you found the term's information sheet useful back at the start of November. We have stuck to this and have worked on time, number/calculation and positional vocabulary in our maths work. Pupils particularly enjoyed engaging with maths games on the whiteboard at the front of class and decorating Christmas trees using positional language.



Our stories in literacy have gone down an absolute storm and pupils loved engaging with the activities associated with each. The children thought that the messy powder play associated with the festival 'Holi' was fantastic, the cleaners less so!



Whilst we haven't been able to go swimming every week this term, pupils have evidenced that they are continuing to make progress. One notable highlight was seeing pupils overcoming their fears in the pool. Liam for example, was so calm and relaxed on a float following his work on one particular session, that he drifted off into the deep end before realising where he was (well beyond his usual comfort zone).



News from Communication Pathway



Cooking and Art, as ever, continue to be hugely enjoyed subjects in Blue Class. Pupils have worked on 'spreading' and 'commenting' in cooking this term and have loved the host of sweet treats that have come hand in hand with this busy festival season. Likewise, pupils have really enjoyed the arty activities on offer, and we all know that for good or bad, Christmas means glitter!



Whatever your plans for the Christmas break this year, we wish you all the very best and hope that you find some time for yourselves amidst it all.



*From Megan, Sarah, Julie,
Teresa and Richard,*

~ The Blue Class Team





News from Transition Pathway

Purple Class

We have finally made it to the end of Term 2 and what a packed-out term it has been. Our main focus throughout the term has of course been the run up to the Christmas celebrations and holiday. We have also had Hannah's and Iqra's 16th birthday to celebrate (oh and Lorraine Green too)!

As well as continuing with some of our regular weekly activities such as swimming, Read Write Inc and Phonics, Maths etc. we have had a few changes to timetable to comply with safety rules and have made use of this time to spend in the fresh air, including some time to film for the performance!

The Enterprise and Vocations Group hosted a soup day and donated the proceeds this year to Children in Need. The main focus this term has been on preparing Christmas treats and gifts to sell. The class has worked in groups to complete mince pie orders, Christmas tree decorations and Gingerbread.

Our topic for the term has been on *Celebrations* including that of different cultures, which fitted in very nicely with this term's main focus. It also gave us a great idea for a Christmas play! As well as Christmas we looked at celebrations that happen around the world including Divali and Hannukah – all festivals of light! The students made a great job of decorating the Common Room for Christmas.

We have also thought about the climate (to coincide with the COP26) and the ever important need to recycle. Purple Class are proud to recycle and emptying the recycling and food waste is part of our weekly chores. Leanne has been in class this term to lead our PSHE, this term focussing on Alcohol and Tobacco. We created some poetry and collage poppies for the Remembrance display and some of our poems were displayed in the British Legion. Once again, we considered the importance of Anti-bullying, although instead of creating Anti-bullying posters the class made 'one word' kindness posters to display around school.

We have continued our visits at Wheels4All where some of the students have been able to exercise via cycling laps and walking around the track in the crisp fresh air. Ben is working towards riding a two-wheeler!

Finally, the last weeks of term has included Class Christmas Dinner cooked by the AoPE (Award of Personal Effectiveness) Group, School Christmas jumper Day, Christmas Dinner and Party as well as preparing some small treats to take home.

We hope you all enjoy our Christmas Performance Video and we wish you all a fabulous Christmas!

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



News from Transition Pathway





News from Transition Pathway

