



Kingfisher Newsletter

18th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We have certainly had a busy time at Kingfisher this term. Some of our classes have ventured out of school and had some experiences within our community. We are hoping with the easing of some more COVID restrictions that this will enable more classes external visits and that our staffing levels will soon become more constant.

Some of our pupils have been independently accessing school from the minibuses for a while. They have now been presented with their 'Orange Lanyard' with School ID card so that they can make their way down to class through the fobbed doors. They are very proud to wear their lanyards and it makes it really clear to all the adults in the school which pupils can interpedently make their way around the school.

Thankyou to all the parents and staff who have supported our pupils to achieve all the milestones they have this term. All pupils have been making considerable progress in all areas, whether that be in reading and maths, arts, swimming and PE, or with their independence and physio targets. We are really proud of all progress herte at Kingfisher School.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 23rd March 2022

Parent Consultation-it is hoped that we will be able to do this as a face-to-face meeting

Friday 18th March 2022

We will jointly be celebrating Comic Relief and World Down Syndrome Day. The children are encouraged to wear something red (for Comic Relief) and/or odd socks (for World Down Syndrome Day). A suggestion donation of £1 would be gratefully received. All proceeds raised will be divided equally between these two worthy causes.

Friday 29th April 2022

We are very excited to be celebrating both St. George's Day and Autism Awareness Month. Parents and Carers will be invited to join our celebrations from 10am. We will have music, a raffle, an array of games and refreshments will be available for you to enjoy.

Friday 10th June 2022

We will be celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee by having a "street party" which you are most welcome to attend from 10am.

I hope you have a lovely half term break and look forward to seeing your children back in school on Monday 28th February

Best Wishes

Lorraine



Sensory Pathway



Yellow Class

What a busy term it has been! It has been so pleasing to see how well, Yellow Class have worked in all of their sessions. We are so proud of all of the pupils, for all of their fantastic work this term.

Our Sensory Story sessions have proved to be highly popular and have prompted some terrific vocalising from some of our students. This term, our Sensory story has been “Sam Builds a House”, which all of the pupils have enjoyed enormously. They liked being able to explore different materials and pressing the switch to ring the doorbell. In one session, Alessandra vocalised twice that she wished to ring the doorbell. She did this immediately, when the switch was presented to her. This was wonderful to see- what a star! In our Art sessions, the children have been busy exploring different textures and materials. You will be able to see their wonderful creations for yourselves as we will be sending some of the finished artwork home with the children this half term.

All of the pupils have benefited hugely from their weekly swimming sessions. Swimming sessions are invaluable, in that they are hugely enjoyable for the students and that they also enable them to work on their physio targets. We have been particularly impressed by Felix, who is always really calm and relaxed in the water. We are so proud with how hard the children have worked with their physio sessions in class. Ada has been able to independently sit up tall, for fifteen minutes, which has been fantastic to see. Roman and Francesca have been working on their Core strength, as they have recently mastered balancing on the Peanut ball. In addition, Habibou has been able to increase the amount of time that he will tolerate being in his standing frame. Alessandra will happily engage in lessons whilst in her standing frame for up to an hour, which has been wonderful to see. Our Tac Pac and Yoga sessions have provided excellent opportunities for stretching and working on individual physio programs. Sienna, Willow and Isla are always particularly relaxed during Tac Pac sessions.



Yellow Class

We have seen terrific engagement levels, from the pupils, in our Hand Function sessions. Willow has been making very clear choices between which two hand creams she wishes to have applied and has also been using her E-Tran to make clear choices between two symbols. These sessions have facilitated the children to express their preferences in a variety of ways that include, stretching; looking and vocalising, to make a clear choice between the two hand creams.

Sensory Cooking has definitely served as a weekly highlight for the pupils. Francesca has worked particularly well during these sessions and she enjoys spooning and pouring the ingredients into the bowl. Habibou has also been really focused during these sessions and likes being able to feel the textures of the different ingredients. Sienna and Isla particularly loved feeling the icing sugar, as it was sieved on to their hands and did some lovely mark-making with the icing sugar.

In our VI sessions, the children have been doing good tracking work, whilst Ada has been reaching out for the light and will hold it, before crossing her mid-line to place it in her other hand.

We are so delighted with all of the amazing efforts and achievements that we have seen this term. We hope that you all have a great half-term break and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 28th February 2022.

Siobhán, Kerry-Ann, Emma, Sally, and Katia



Green Class

Our Topic this term has been materials, we have been exploring a variety of different textures and learning to express our likes and dislikes towards them. We have also been looking at 'that's not my...' books, we have been feeling the different textures in the book and learning to turn the pages independently.

Our sensory story 'A New House for Sam' has continued our topic of materials, during this story we have been exploring different textures that are used to build different animals homes. These include fabric, wood and glass, our favorite was defiantly the metal bars for the hamster cage that vibrated when we run our fingers down them.

In Art we have been learning to mark making with a variety of different textures. These include soft shaving foam that we move our fingers in, rough porridge oats that we can sprinkle and hard pasta that develop our fine motor skills by picking the pieces up.

In Sensory cooking we have been exploring wet and dry textures when making apple crumble, we explore 5 different ingredients with our 5 senses and practicing moving our fingers and hands to mix everything together. Everyone has done fantastic this term with tasting new flavors especially the apples and apple sauce.

Lastly, we have been working hard in PE playing lots of different parachute games. We all practice holding on to the edge of the parachute raising our arms above our head to lift it up really high and then lower it into our laps. We are learning to take turns with our friends to sit in the middle whilst everyone around the edge either shakes the parachute really fast or spins it around.

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



Pink Class

This term's topic of materials has allowed us to do so much exploring in Pink Class. It has been lovely to see how popular some of the activities have been. Mark making, although a favorite with a few of us, hasn't often been an all-around winner for us. This term however it has been wonderful to see everyone motivated by mark making activities. For some of us it has been the illuminated light board or eye pad that has inspired, for others it has been mark making over a range of different surfaces. Feeling the changes as our hands move from one surface to another as well as painting with cars down a ramp have been particular highlights.

In line with our topic work, the 'That's not my ...' series of books have been very much enjoyed. Everyone was reaching out to explore the different textures by the end of the term, some of us are beginning to match descriptions and all of us were prepared for the naughtier characters; the lion and it's shiny teeth in particular had a tendency to bite.

In all our activities this term we have been focusing particularly on altering ready to learn, understanding 'now and next' and/ or visual timetables. We are really proud of the progress students have made in these areas. Visual timetables can be tricky but we are really pleased that throughout the term everyone has been interested to look at their time tables as they were being modelled and particularly during story massage have started to use them expressively to select their favourite.

Have a wonderful half term,

Tor, Julie, Maria S., Sue, Liza, Maria J, Sarah and Daniel.



Core Pathway



Orange Class

We have had another busy term in Orange Class and it is lovely to see the progress that the children have made since Christmas. This term we have concentrated learning how to focus on 1:1 learning activities with an adult – often a maths or a communication task. All of our children can sit with a grown up to complete a task and their stamina for working like this has grown over the term.

This term our topic has been Materials and we have enjoyed exploring a range of different ones to experience their various textures and properties. We have sorted out the recycling and used all sorts of materials to construct things, inspired by The Three Little Pigs, which we enjoyed reading together.

The children in Orange Class have really become confident in their physical abilities, thanks to our PE, dance and swimming sessions. It has been possible for the adults to notice progress week on week. In PE we have been rolling, walking along benches and jumping off apparatus. Some children who were initially unsure are now showing great confidence and will also be led to attempt new skills. We have a dance session with Gina every Friday, where we explore a range of movements with our bodies and experiment with the reactions we have to a variety of music. We end our sessions with some yoga for relaxation.



Orange Class

In the pool, Orange Class have made good progress towards level 1 of Swim England. They have explored different levels of the pool, washed their faces in the water, practised using a woggle – and more besides! Fantastic work, Orange Class!

Our topic next term will be Healthy Living, thinking about exercise and healthy eating choices.

Have a lovely half term!

From us all in Orange Class:

Rachael, Beccie, Tracy, Libby, Emily and Charlotte.



Red Class

Here we are at the end of Term 3. There have been quite a few birthdays this term – a very Happy Birthday to everyone that has celebrated their birthdays. As you can imagine one of our favourite things to do is have a little party with crisps and cake. The children also enjoy party games such as musical statues and musical bumps, they are very competitive and enjoy trying to win.

For topic this term we have been thinking about our environment and how to take care of it. The children have been brilliant at using all the recycling bins in the classroom. They have been sorting 'food waste', 'paper and card' and 'other rubbish'. They even spot when the adults have made a mistake and help us to use the correct bins.

The children really enjoyed searching through our rubbish bins to sort the rubbish, they even liked wearing the rubber gloves. Their favourite activity was collecting rubbish with the special sticks from around the playgrounds. Everyone took turns with the sticks and the special bags with hoops to keep them open.



Red Class

We have certainly been keeping ourselves healthy this term with lots of exercise. Molly has been encouraging the children to play lots of exciting games on a Monday and a Wednesday. They are also continuing to work extremely hard in the swimming pool with Angela and Dawn the swimming teachers. Children that are not always confident in the water have been working on floating on the water with their heads right back and have been very successful for the first time ever this term. Well done everyone!

Have a good half term everybody.

Lorna, Laura, Pauline, Jo and Jennifer.



Gold Class

We have had an amazing term in Gold Class full of lots of fantastic learning. Our topic has been about materials and learning about solids, liquids and gases. We have enjoyed exploring how materials can change from solid to liquid and back, which we have done partly through cooking. This often involved melting chocolate to make things like chocolate krispie cakes and chocolate fridge cake, which obviously needed tasting to see how delicious they were. We also attempted making ice cream in a bag, but this wasn't terribly successful, and didn't thicken up as much as hoped. We also investigated the time taken for ice cubes to melt in different conditions including in a warm hand, glass of water, covered in salt and in sugar. Some of us are beginning to make a prediction before we do a test in science.

Gold Class were very keen to find out how we can save our planet after watching a video clip of the teenager Greta Thunberg, who has travelled around the world on her campaign to protect the environment. We started by learning about what we do with all of our rubbish, researching using websites, non-fiction and picture books. Pupils understand that some things can be recycled and so we have improved the way we sort our rubbish in class to separate the recycling from the general waste and we now use a compost bin for food waste. They have put lovely posters around school to encourage recycling, reducing waste and reusing things if possible.

Pupils are enjoying P.E lessons and the Coaches have kept them on their toes with some gymnastics and fitness training. We have also been lucky to have dance once a week this term and we have been learning a complicated routine to Starstruck by Years and Years.



Gold Class

Maths and literacy has continued with phonics lessons, reading, writing and mathematics this term. Students have worked hard and are doing well. In the last couple of weeks, we have come back to telling the time and using money, which are both important life skills and can be quite challenging for some students. So, if you have any opportunity at home, it would be great to practise these skills.

We have done work around online safety all term leading to Internet Safety Day, where we looked at viewing and sharing videos online safely, gaming online and using Social Media Aps.

Have a great Half Term,

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



Communication Pathway



Silver Class

During term 3 the children in Silver class have been very creative and have practised developing their fine motor skills. One of their favourite lessons was scrunching up newspaper into little balls and throwing them into a big bucket – lots of fun whilst also supporting hand function! We have all been working on number recognition and counting in silver class too. The children have been ordering numbers, writing numbers and sorting objects.

This term our topic has been 'Materials'. We have been looking at what different materials look like, feel like and trying to find them on scavenger hunts! One of our favourite parts of a new topic is taking part in sensory stories. The children have been using communication aids to show us when they spot something in the story. We began the term learning the story of the Three Little Pigs and we made our own model houses of straw, sticks and leaves. We loved the stickman story and even created our own stickmen using sticks we found in the Kingfisher grounds. Our final story at the end of term was Morph's Treasure Map. We loved making our own Morph character using playdough, discovering gold coins in the sand and playing 'Pop-up Pirate' with our friends.



Silver Class

Some of the games we have been playing during sensory story have enabled the children to develop their turn-taking and sharing skills. We have been practising waiting patiently for our friends to have a turn before it is our go again.

The children are given lots of opportunities to communicate through choosing and they all really enjoy messy and structured play times. This term the children explored the use of straw, sticks, leaves and other materials that the pigs might have built their houses from in The Three Little Pigs. We looked at how stickman might have travelled down the river during water play and went on a treasure hunt to see if we could find any of Morph's gold chocolate coins!

The children have also developed their skills of following instructions and making choices through cooking. We have been making sandwiches, decorating biscuits, making healthy wraps, savoury crackers and choosing toast toppings.

We have had a brilliant term 3 – Silver class wishes you a happy half term holiday!

Heather, Brittany, Ellie, Leann and Molly.



White Class

We have all enjoyed this terms topic, materials. The children have learnt a lot and shown interest in this topic, especially during the sensory experiences.

Within communication lesson, we have been continuing to challenge 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. We have been creating communication opportunities in cooking lessons, the children have been choosing toppings for toast, crumpets, cupcakes, biscuits, sandwiches, wraps and crackers.

Within Literacy, we have been reading the Three Little Pigs, Stickman and Morph. Within these stories we have been looking at the materials mentioned. Within symbols and mark making lessons, we have been requesting props, identifying pictures within the story book, using colourful semantics to describe what is happening in a picture from the story. We have also been tracing and copying key words within the story and making marks using different materials, such as sticks in mud. We have linked topic lessons to literacy lessons, exploring, sorting, and learning to commenting on materials used within the stories, such as straw, bricks, clay and wood. We have also been finding materials within our learning environment, going on scavenger hunts. Within numeracy lessons, we have been focusing on time, numbers, size and capacity. The children have been improving and becoming more confident within each lesson.



White Class

The children have been enjoying their PE lessons with Molly, learning pencil jumps and log rolls and following an obstacle course. 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 been making amazing pieces of artwork, they have been making valentine's day cards, creating houses out of straw, sticks and leaves, learning how to make wood rubbings, making their own stickman and morph.

We hope you have a lovely break!

Jemma, Ali, Niki, Lynette, Kia and Leann



Black Class

Happy half term everyone! Black Class have had an excellent term with lots of learning, fun, triumphs and achievements. I would like to take this opportunity to say how exceptionally proud of everyone in Black Class we are! We even had two children manage to earn their very own independence lanyard.

Our topic this term was all about materials. We used this as a focus for our stories which were the Three little Pigs, Stickman and Morphs Treasure hunt. As well as practicing our writing skills, we focused on characters this term, using adjectives to explain their appearance, and answering questions using symbols and communication boards.

In our topic session we explored different materials, commenting on their tangible and physical properties using communication boards. We learnt language such as hard/ soft, rough/ smooth. We also practiced sorting materials into different categories with different criteria. One of the highlights was our material hunt around school. We found different surfaces and materials and made marks using crayons in Art. As well as this we used different materials to make artwork. We made straw houses, stick houses, treasure chests and stickmen.

In Cooking this term we focused on making choices about which ingredients we would like to use. We made sandwiches, wraps, crackers, crumpets and toast. The sweet choices seemed to be the most popular, with marmite receiving a big yuck from some of the children.



Black Class

In Numeracy this term we explored number and calculation as well as measurement. We practiced using comparative terms long and short. We even applied it in lots of situations to find the longer or shorter item. One of our favourite activities was using our very deep sweet jar with only a few sweets in the bottom. The children had to find the longest spoon to get the sweets out.

In Communication this term we practiced turn taking and sharing with our friends. Some of us joined in with small group games including hide and seek and duck duck goose. We haven't mastered the rules of the game yet but we had lots of fun doing it! We are going to carry this on next term as it was such a big hit with some of our pupils!

P.E has been very successful this term. We practiced moving around apparatus in different ways including on our tummies, on our feet, going sideways and backwards. We also practiced jumping from a height landing with our two feet firmly on the ground. As always, swimming has been enjoyed by all children in Black Class. We have shown improvements within the level we are working on as well as having lots of fun and splashing the adults!

Thank you to everyone who has been using evisense this term. It has been great to see the children practicing skills at home and applying them to real life situations. I would again like to say a big well done to all of the children. Have a brilliant half term and we look forward to another productive half term, hopefully with a bit more sunshine!

Katie, Amelia, Olivia, Sophie, Leann



Blue Class

Good afternoon everybody. I hope you've had a fantastic half-term and have managed to keep those new year's resolutions ticking, we've certainly been hard at work in Blue Class as we have focused on our topic 'materials'.

Based upon materials, pupils have loved engaging with our three sensory stories in literacy. We had great fun huffing, puffing and sneezing the house down with 'The true story of the three little pigs', role playing 'stickman's' adventures and making our own clay figures to join in with 'morph's treasure'.

Likewise, Art and D&T has been enjoyable this term as we have laid our hands on a wide array of resources. Pupils made a fantastic straw, stick and brick houses and loved getting their hands messy with clay and water. We even ended up making a whole family of stick-people! Messy play similarly involved a host of 'house making' materials and in topic we took it one stage further as we headed out on a scavenger hunt to find and identify different materials around the school site.



Blue Class

I have been impressed to see pupils making good individual progress with their 'number' in maths, with some individuals securing their knowledge of physical count to ten whilst others have begun thinking about what numbers over 100 look like practically. In communication sessions, pupils thought about stop/go and the importance of following instructions when out and about and demonstrated excellent choice making in cooking.

One of the clear highlights this term has been witnessing Blue Class pupils continue to successfully reintegrate, whether in swimming or even just back to the classroom.

Whatever it is that you've been up to this term, and whatever plans you may have, I wish you a very happy half term and we look forward to seeing you all again soon.

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



Transition Pathway



Purple Class

Well although we may not have covered quite all to plan, it has been an extremely busy and packed term all the same! As usual we have continued with our regular weekly activities such as swimming, shopping and cooking, Read Write Inc/Phonics and Maths etc. As part of our Recreation & Leisure activities we have enjoyed making use of free activities in our local area such as trips to Cutteslowe Park to feed the ducks and a walk to the Abbey Meadows weir etc.

The Enterprise and Vocations Group hosted another soup day for staff – carrot and coriander and have focussed more closely on the skills needed and reasons for enterprise. The AoPE (Award of Personal Effectiveness) Group have focussed on choosing targets for themselves to improve on and a chosen research project.

Our topic for the term has been on Materials and their properties. We have thought about and looked at the many different materials that surround us and whether they are natural or man-made. We have thought about material properties and the reasons objects are made from particular materials. We have looked at solids, liquids and gases and changes of state. We have produced our own chemical reaction with the Volcano Experiment! We thought about all the materials that can and should be recycled and once again Purple Class are proud that emptying the recycling and food waste is part of our weekly chores.



Purple Class

To coincide with National Story Telling week we had a change of plan and focussed on a novel from a modern author – *Skellig* (by David Almond), which was kindly read by Gill towards the end of most days. We were relieved the baby in the story survived and was named Joy!

For PSHE this term, Leanne has focussed on Mental Health & Wellbeing, looking more closely at feelings and emotions. We have continued our visits at Wheels4All. Roberto and Ben have both tried out a two-wheeler with stabilizers.

Towards the last part of term, we have thought about Chinese New Year – *year of the tiger* and recapped on the animal race. We have found out which Chinese zodiac animal we all are and whether we share their characteristics. The students created some Chinese masks to help decorate our Common Room into a Chinese Restaurant. The students worked hard using various skills to produce some fantastic Valentine cards and small gifts. We have also celebrated Chan's 18th birthday and Mya's 17th, so lots of cake!

Finally, we finished the term with a visit to Oxford College to look around and see what the students do there, a visit to Redbridge Recycling Centre to find out what materials and objects can be recycled and about the jobs there and lastly, we had a well-deserved film day watching *Skellig* and a special treat Chinese meal in celebration of Chinese New Year. Phewww. Happy half term everyone!

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

