

Dear Parents and Carers

It has certainly become colder with more rain this week; our pupils have still managed to get out and about both on and off site. As you will read later in the newsletter there have been some exciting trips to Millets Farm to see singing reindeers, fantastic light displays and visits the ice rink.

Some of our pupils are developing their independence at the moment making their way to and from the transport in the mornings and afternoons. Whilst they may look as if they are 'unaccompanied' please rest assured that this is part a strategic plan and part of their ILP targets.

National Special Schools Swimming Finals

On Wednesday a team of seven Kingfisher Pupils travelled to London to take part in the National Final. This was a Secondary School event and we took a very young team. However, our pupils swam superbly and finished in sixth place out of the nine schools who qualified. An added bonus was that we won the Treasure Hunt, which was the final event. Each pupil received a book and prize. Well done to all those who took part.



Our Kingfisher View

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

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 10th December	Christmas Performance 10.00
Wednesday 11th December	Christmas Performance 10.00
Thursday 12th December	Christmas Performance 13.30
Friday 13th December	Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children Charity

Can I please remind you to be respectful of our neighbours and refrain from blocking drives or parking on grassed areas. If you are visiting the school during the day you are more than welcome to park in our minibus bays between **09.15-14.30**.

As you may be aware 'Leo the Cat' comes into school once a week to support us from the Charity 'Pets As Therapy'. He is currently featuring on the 2019 Pets As Therapy Christmas Cards. Please see the Community Page for order details.

Have a great weekend

Lorraine



News from Spring Cluster

Green Class

One more week has gone very quickly for Green Class. We have all started getting in the Christmas mood this week and we have also started practising our song for our Christmas performance that is coming very soon. We can't wait to share it with all of you in a few weeks!

Our Art activities this week have also focussed on Christmas and the children have started making some beautiful cards for their friends and they loved ones. The children loved feeling the paint and the paintbrush on their hands or their feet and making some great prints on different colour paper cards. Some of our students definitely got the giggles especially when the adults supported them to use the paintbrush and paint their feet. During our Sensory story, which is called 'A tiny seed' the children really enjoyed exploring all the different prompts independently and they were all great tracking the light toys as well.

Some of our students also join Clare's V.I group every Friday morning, which takes place in the Light room. The children love Clare's anticipation songs and they are all amazing at tracking all the different toys and exploring all the different materials. Green Class is going on a trip on Monday morning and we are all keep praying for a nice, sunny day. We are looking forward to sharing with you our experience from our trip and some lovely photos next week.





News from Spring Cluster



We hope you all have a lovely weekend,

Anna, Kim, Amanda, Clare, Jackie, Julia, Lorna and Hannah.



News from Spring Cluster

Yellow Class

A super week in Yellow class, lots of hard work, making sparkly pictures, practicing our visual skills, tracking and fixing on the sparkles. We have started practicing our Christmas song for the performance.

We have all worked hard on our Physiotherapy and standing.

We had a lovely trip to Millets farm, thank you to all of the parents that managed to join us. Everyone loved seeing and listening to the singing reindeers and seeing the amazing Christmas lights. Some of us also ventured on to the ice rink in our chairs which was great fun. Have a lovely weekend.





News from Summer Cluster

Pink Class

With Christmas in mind it's been a busy and eventful week for Pink class, as some of us enjoyed a festive visit to Millets Farm near Abingdon. We loved looking at all the bright and colourful decorations and some of us had lots of fun skating around on the ice rink. The adults had lots of fun as well. The rest of the class are looking forward to going next week.

We have continued with our sensory story 'A Bagful of Stars' and are really engaging with all the different sensory elements. Exploring the box full of tinsel, presents and stars is still a firm favourite with everyone.

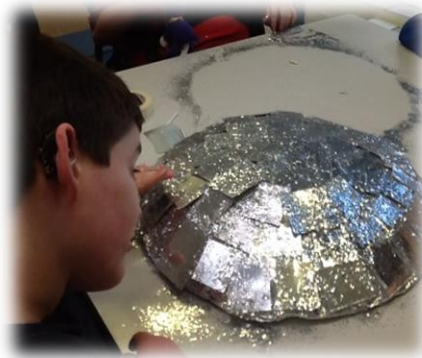
Alongside this our week has continued to be filled with our sensology, sensory cooking, communication and art sessions. There is a clue in our art session photo hinting at our upcoming Christmas performance which we are all very excited about. There will be more details to follow soon.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend,





News from Summer Cluster



Juliette, Tor, Maria, Liza, Sue, Janet, Norah and Daniel



News from Summer Cluster

Blue Class

We have had another busy week thinking about birthdays as part of our celebration topic theme. We all worked together to make a lovely "Happy Birthday" banner which is now proudly displayed in the classroom. We again enjoyed our swimming sessions this week and playing with the floats. It was also nice to feel the texture of the magic sand and play at shops as part of our communication group. Here are some of the pictures from this week:



Have a lovely week-end

Sean, Esther, Pauline, Matt and Sarah



News from Summer Cluster

Purple Class

We have continued to take advantage of any spare time throughout the week to run through our rehearsals and finally our performance is really beginning to come together!

The Enterprise Project group visited Fitzwaryn once again and this week they took succulent cuttings and planted them in little pots to sell. The communication group worked particularly hard on their phonics and sounding out words. Josh has been on fire this week with sounding out and spelling words!

Brandon chose Friday lunch – jacket potato with filling and the class also chose their meal for our end of term treat lunch at the pub! After determining which ingredients we would need for Friday's lunch with the students joining in to spell all the foods we needed to buy, we prepared our shopping lists ready for the weekly shop at Tesco.

A particular well done to our very own Alicia on Wednesday who represented the school in the National Swimming Panathlon at the Olympic Park in London. It was a super event held in a super venue. Alicia swam in 5 separate events and both she and the team did the school proud!

This week the class has mainly focussed on preparing props for our performance and carrying on with Christmas activities (top secret). As usual we visited OXSRAD and cycling. Brandon, Kayah, Ceri, Chan and Josh cooked lunch.

Finally, Friday has come around and we all enjoyed our delicious hot spuds! We rounded off the week with our favourite part - Friday Social Club!!

Happy weekend everyone!

Purple Class - Leah, Mary, Dawn, Sian, Sarah, Lynette & Julie





News from Summer Cluster





News from Autumn Cluster

Orange Class

We have had a lot of fun this week with our birthday theme. If you need help with wrapping presents, Orange Class are available! They really enjoyed wrapping parcels, choosing the paper and bows to wrap up the parcel beautifully. They have practised writing using a phonics sound mat to make a birthday card for Kipper and enjoyed some party games including musical statues and pass the parcel. Sorry if children came home covered in flour on Wednesday; they enjoyed weighing and mixing to make chocolate chip cakes. The cakes were a little flat and hard and I don't think we are quite ready for The Bake-Off, but we enjoyed the process.

In maths we have been splitting things in half through play dough, folding paper and sharing spots on each half of a ladybird.

Christmas is fast approaching and so we have started to practise our song for the Christmas performance in a couple of weeks.



From Maria, Tracey, Scarlet, Katie and Ellie



News from Autumn Cluster

Red Class

Four children from Red Class went as part of the Kingfisher team to the swimming panathalon in London this week and had a really great time, including winning the treasure hunt event! Well done to them all.

We have been creating our own hero and villain characters in literacy this week for a story of our own – the villains particularly are very inventive. In maths we have been focusing on multiplication and division, with some of us working on sharing out and halving/doubling and some working on using multiples of 2s and 5s to solve sums. We had another great science lesson investigating which materials conduct electricity, and of course we are still very much enjoying our Friday clubs – you can see some photos from last week's sensory/messy play club below!

Katherine, Nicola, Laura, and Pauline





News from Autumn Cluster

Gold Class

We are certainly looking forwards to what is forecast to be a sunnier weekend!

This week in literacy we have continued our work on myths and legends, describing and designing our own mythical creatures and characters. Do you know the difference between a Hippogryph and a Gryphon? We certainly didn't, but mix together the right animals and you'll get there in the end!



In maths we have been working on subtraction at different levels, including the use of borrowing when crossing into the 'Tens' column.

In science we have found out about light, it's sources and how shadows are created. Some pupils investigated how we can change the size of a shadow.



We have now fully begun rehearsals for our Christmas play, the first performance of which is the Tuesday

after next. Prepare yourselves for a 'talent-filled' show!

Have a great weekend and we look forwards to seeing you again on Monday.

Homework

Please can you practice times tables with your children. This might be directly recalling facts or could be counting (repeat addition) in twos, fives or tens. Children in class who are familiar with their two, five and ten times tables yet require assistance in rehearsing their threes and fours. Don't forget to read!

From Richard, , Julie, Marie, Yvonne, Sarah, Tess and Lorna!

~ The Gold Class Crew



News from Winter Cluster

Silver Class

We have had lots of fun this week in Silver class continuing to think about birthdays!

We continued to look at our story 'It's my birthday' about collecting ingredients to make a birthday cake. We started to match pictures from the book to the story as well as matching and making simple sentences about the story.

In numeracy we continued to work hard on our sharing skills. We continued sharing toppings between pizza bases but also started to share cakes between 2 plates.

We have also continued to work really hard on our communication skills. We enjoyed following instructions to make cakes and started to work really well as a team.





News from Winter Cluster

We also enjoyed choosing different decorations to make our birthday balloons using symbols and our communication mats. Here are some pictures of us choosing materials for our birthday hats from last week.



As always we enjoyed our messy play session. Again we choose the different items to put in the shaving foam using our symbols and communication boards. We had lots of fun making cakes using the shaving foam and cake cases.



We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Charlotte, Tina, Leann and Zoe



News from Winter Cluster

White Class

Here are a couple of pictures of our cooking at the end of last week, where we decorated fairy cakes, choosing the colour of the icing, as well as the toppings.



This week we have had a birthday party to celebrate a (pretend) birthday! The children had already made cards and party invitations ready for the event. We had a cake and sang Happy Birthday, opened a present and cards, dressed in party hats and played with streamers and balloons. Great fun!

Our number work on 'sharing' came in handy for sharing out the birthday cake. We also shared the present (some small chocolates) counting "one for me, one for you ...".

If you manage to get out and about this weekend, do look out for Christmas lights as that will help with our learning in Science next week. Have a good weekend!

Rachael, Jill, Niki and Charlotte





News from Winter Cluster

Black Class

Black Class have had a great week this week.

We have continued with our birthday topic and have been having lots of fun. We followed visual instructions to bake cakes. We then played a shopping game and re-enacted 10 currant buns for each pupil to buy a cake. The cakes went down very well.

We have also been working on our birthday topic through literacy. The children labelled photographs with symbols, eg red balloon/strawberry cake etc. we were very impressed with pupil independence in this session.

We have continued to work on light and dark in Science. As a group we sorted light and dark photographs .

We had a visit from Leo the Cat from this week. Alexa and Arthur really enjoyed interacting with him. They also took time to brush his fur and Arthur named parts of his body.



Finally, we have been getting into the Christmas spirit by practicing for our Christmas performance this week.

Have a great weekend

Katie, Ali, Olivia, Teresa, Helen and Lynette

New parents group – Thrive

Empowering parents to support their autistic children

Understand and see your child, no matter what age, through a different lens. Come for the

support, to learn new strategies and to connect with other families



When: Wednesday 4th December, 6.30 – 9pm

Where: Larkrise School, **Green Room**, Boundary Brook Road, OX4 4AN

Cost: £5.00 (get in touch if cost is prohibitive)

Refreshments available – please bring your own cup!

All welcome, no need for a diagnosis.

Drop –in! No need to book

Sessions to be run by:

Deirdre Nic Sitric from Autism Champions

For further information please email:

info@autismchampions.co.uk

Community Links

The Short Breaks Scheme has sent us their latest newsletter which you can access via: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/shortbreaks
For anyone without access to the internet, the content page is below.

They have a new group page on [Facebook - Oxfordshire SEND Families Together](#) with information, events, activities etc. relevant to families with children/young people with impairments and professionals working with them.



The **local offer** for SEN and Disability (SEND) brings together information about education, health and care services for children and young people from 0 to 25 with SEND. The link is www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer.

Are you entitled to 30 hours free childcare for working parents? Secure your eligibility code now well before the deadline of **31st December** and take the code to a provider to ensure you secure a place for January 2020. The next deadline will be 31st March for use in April 2020. **You must also reconfirm your eligibility every term.** For more info - <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Short Breaks Update for Families with Disabled Children and Young People

Welcome to the December **Short Breaks Update**.
We hope you will find the information in this edition useful.
Please share it with your friends, families and colleagues.



Jigsaw Parent group are raising funds with a cake sale & raffle (p5). Don't miss the free flu jab on offer for carers (p16). There's a variety of new opportunities this month, lots of pantomimes and more training too (p28-33).
Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year!



What's in this edition...

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P3	Wave - signing choir	P19	Beauty & the Beast
P4	Oxford CP Football	P20	A Christmas Carol
P5	Jigsaw parent group & raffle	P21	Supermarket Scrooge
P6	Accessible swimming, Bracknell	P22	Christmas Tree Festival
P7	Vibes - cheerleading	P23	Under 5s Stay & Play nr Banbury
P8	Abingdon - disability football	P24	VICTA Sports Activity Day
P9	Inclusive sports opportunities	P25	VICTA Science Day
P10	Learn to ride a bike course	P26	VICTA We Will Rock You
P11	Accessible chef & SEN rugby	P27	Autism friendly cinema screenings
P12	Thomley's upcoming activities	P28	Down's Syndrome - Training for Schools - 2nd Dec!
P13-14	My Normal Music - 1:1 & groups	P29-32	Autism Training
P15	My Normal Voice singing group	P33	OCVA Training opportunities
P16	SHIFT Open Morning		

Community Links

We included this in a previous newsletter but as Christmas is getting nearer thought we would include it again. Hopefully there are still places left.

Wild Boor Ideas Presents:

Supermarket Scrooge

Special Access Performance –
Thursday 19th December 2.00 p.m.

Supermarket Scrooge is the warm-hearted, wacky tale about the true meaning of Christmas and the challenge of the last-minute seasonal food shop.

Meet Emily Scratchett, working for 'Scroogeways' Supermarket on Christmas Eve for paltry wages, and her boss Wilhelmina Scrooge. Up to now Wilhelmina has always discounted Emily's loyalty but soon learns to bag a friend for life!



Sing along with a feast of Christmas Dinner puppets and fill up your Nectar Card of love in this new pantomime presented by Wild Boor Ideas, who brought you last year's successful Winnie and Wilbur Christmas Adventure ('The best, most magical, bonkers and enchanting Winnie and Wilbur show ever!' Korky Paul: illustrator of Winnie the Witch).

Starring Emma Boor, Amantha Edmead and Ceri Ashcroft with music by Hannah Rhodes and direction by Euton Daley.

Special Access Performance

Relaxed performance for audiences with SEN available on Thursday 19 December at 2pm with BSL.
(Child £8 / Carers Free)

This can only be booked directly with the JDP:

01865 286 660 /

For bookings, please email nadia_rich@hotmail.com

or call James Adcock at JDP music building 01865 286 660 jdp@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk.

Reservations will be taken & invoiced through Tickets Oxford.

Community Links

Leo the school's therapy cat has been chosen to feature on the 2019 'Pets As Therapy' Christmas Cards. '

Orders for these Christmas cards can be taken over the phone by Catherine at Pets As Therapy - telephone number 01865 671440. The cost is £4.00 for a pack of 10 Christmas cards plus £1.00 postage.

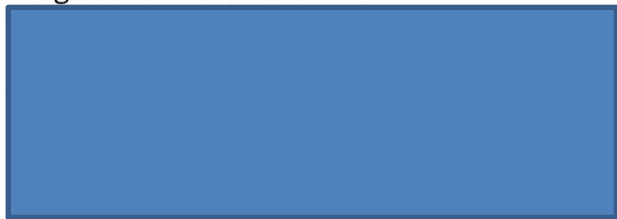
Please note, this is not a link below, it is a screen shot from the website.



Pets As Therapy Christmas Cards

£4.00

Registered Volunteer ID:



Pets As Therapy Official Christmas Cards

-Title: Leo, Mac, Elphie, Sasha and Holly

-10 cards with envelopes; 2 each of 5 designs

- Message inside "Seasons Greetings"

-High Gloss Finish

-Size 127 x 178

