

11th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

We have spent the week welcoming back our pupils and got back into the swing of things quickly. It has been great finding out what our pupils have been up to in the holidays.

You will find some of your children are bringing home books to read with you. Book bags are available from the office to help the transfer of these books. The initial conversations with pupils and parents is that this is going down really well. We will be rolling this out to more classes over the next few weeks.

Although the weather is pretty good at the moment, this is the time of year that we do have snow and ice from time to time, we certainly did last year. When making decisions to close the school it is always whilst considering the health and safety of our pupils as well as our staff. On the rare occasions the decision has to be made to close the school there are various avenues in which you can find this out. In the event of closure, we will update our website to ensure that the message is available on there. We will also contact local radio stations and inform the local authority, so please check in with these too. They do take a while to update, so the website should be your first port of call if you have access. Sometimes, although the school site is relatively clear it would be necessary to close the school due to transport issues, which is out of our control. We will not be able to phone individual families on these occasions.

Please find attached an invitation for parents and carers to go along to find out more about SHIFT, which is a support group for the Abingdon area.

Dates for your Diary

SHIFT open morning Wednesday 24th January 9.30-1130

Have a great weekend

Lorraine

Our Kingfisher View

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



News from Spring Cluster

Green Class

We hope you have had a lovely Christmas and we would like to wish a very Happy New Year to all of you. It has been so lovely to welcome the children back to Green Class this week and we have definitely had a brilliant start to the new term.

Our topic for this term is "Once Upon a Time" and we are all looking forward to all the exciting things that we are going to make and learn during this term. We have really enjoyed listening to our new sensory story "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and the children have had lots of fun exploring all the materials and props. During Art, we made colourful crowns with paper card, glitter and feathers and the children enjoyed being beautiful 'Kings' and 'Queens'. We have also been doing some great Numeracy lessons in Green Class this week and the children loved tracing numbers in the sand tray using pencils or their fingers. On Thursday afternoon, we really enjoyed listening to Clare Johnson playing our favourite numeracy songs with her guitar and we loved counting together. Clare will be with us every Thursday afternoon and we are so happy to have her in our class. The children were also very happy to see Music Steve after the two weeks break and we have had great fun playing the musical instruments and focussing on our listening skills. It was amazing to see how nicely the children were listening and how beautifully they were vocalising during the session.



We hope you have a great weekend and we are all looking forward to seeing you on Monday.

Anna, Annie, Clare, Jackie, Maria C, Maria J, Pauline and Sue



News from Spring Cluster

Yellow Class

We would like to wish you all a very Happy New year and we hope that you all had a restful Christmas break.

It was so lovely to welcome back all the children to Yellow class. Our first week back has been busy. Our topic this term is "Once Upon a Time" and we got off to a flying start with our sensory story, which is "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" A particular favourite with all of the children was the heat pad for the porridge that was too hot. All the children have been working so hard with their daily physio targets and everyone enjoyed their first swimming session of 2019.

We had super looking and concentration during our Attention Bucket sessions and the children are continuing to grow in confidence with their tooth brushing skills. Please continue to reinforce tooth brushing at home by giving the children the opportunity to hold and explore their toothbrush before encouraging them to brush their teeth.



Hope you all have a great weekend

Siobhan, Maria, Yvonne, Sally, Kerryann, Amanda and Hannah



News from Summer Cluster

Pink Class

The students have returned to school after the holiday really well and have settled straight back into routine. It was lovely to hear about all the exciting things they have been up to in the holidays. We have been really proud to see how the students have greeted each other too- they clearly missed their friends. We are now seeing firm friendships emerging. Now that Christmas is over you would think that we are no longer interested in food. However our topic this term is "Good Food" and so we have still had a big focus on food.

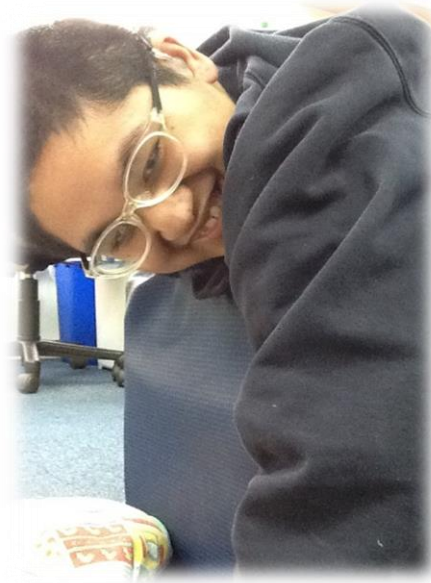
We have been working with edible paint and edible stamps. Everyone enjoyed all the lovely smells and textures we experienced as part of the activity. In Cookery this week we explored the various way we could flavour Natural Yogurt. It seemed that adding cucumber and mint to make Rajita was a firm favourite. We have even managed to explore our food theme as part of our communication activities, as you will guess from the picture bringing food into our resonance board session was messy but very fun.

Have a lovely weekend





News from Summer Cluster



*Tor, Juliette, Maria, Dawn, Tracy, Norah, Michele, Lorna, Janet,
Daniel, Clare*



News from Summer Cluster

Blue Class

It's been a busy welcome back into Blue Class for all of the students. We have started our topic of healthy eating along with taking part in some different forms of exercise.

Some of our students joined in with horse riding on Wednesday and all did fantastically well communicating with their horses and building trust relationships.

We also prepared and made healthy sandwiches from a cookbook. We had been out the day before to Millets farm shop to purchase the food items which students found from a shopping list and exchanged money with the cashier.

Unfortunately the allotment was shut unexpectedly on Wednesday but this will form a good part of students learning to grow healthy foods and we will be cooking some produce bought from the Stonehill Community garden in our meals.

On Friday we took our first trip to Wittenham clumps which will hopefully form a good base for many new learning experiences. Next week we will be joined by some dogs which will be walked by the students around the area and give them some responsibility. Students will also need to communicate with them to give them instructions.





News from Summer Cluster

Purple Class

Happy new year to you all.

I would like to introduce myself to you. My name is Leah and I am the new teacher in Purple Class. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the students this week and have been made to feel really welcome by all – what a great bunch. I am very much looking forward to meeting you all!

We have had a relaxing and enjoyable first week back at school. On Tuesday, students visited the Mill View Garden Centre in Wheatley to purchase materials ready for our upcoming enterprise project. Whilst there, we were able to see the birds of prey and some of the other animals and stop for drink and snack from the café. We have also started our project on developing our common room with students helping to make a large welcome sign for the Student Centre. We have been thinking about new places of work that we may visit to find out about different jobs.

The chosen lunch for our end of week meal was spaghetti and meatballs with garlic bread -yum! The meatballs looked perfect and would give Jamie Oliver's a run for their money! We have ended the week on a special day as it is Brandon's birthday and today he is 17. Happy Birthday Brandon.



Happy weekend everyone from Purple Class



News from Autumn Cluster

Red Class

Welcome back, and we hope you have all had a great Christmas and New Year! Everyone has settled back into lessons well, and we are excited about our new term topic, "Inventions", in which we are investigating the history of transport. So far we have been looking at types of transport from the past, present and future, and experimenting with different types of boat in DT to see how we can improve on them. In maths we have been thinking about units of time – how many actions we can fit into a second or a minute, and how long different actions or activities take us. You may like to continue this at home, helping your children time themselves with a stopwatch.

This term, we are also keen to particularly focus on reading, and we are all excited about our brand new reading record books. Everyone has an individual reading book which is changed once a week, and should travel each day between school and home (the office sells Kingfisher book bags if you wish to purchase one). It would be great if you could ask your child about their reading book and encourage them to share it with you.

On a housekeeping note, it is getting extremely muddy outside and you may wish to send in outdoor boots for your child to wear at lunchtimes if they are out on the field. If you send these in, please could they be clearly labelled. Thank you very much!

Katherine, Julie, Nicola, and Sarah





News from Autumn Cluster

Orange Class

Welcome back. We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas holidays and enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

The children have all come back very happy and are full of energy for the new term.

This term our topic is 'Changes'. We will be focussing on changes in transport, looking at different transport and looking at old and new transport. This week we have been thinking about how to get different transport in literacy. We have been following, ordering and acting out instructions for catching the bus, train and plane. In topic we have enjoyed playing with different transport and practising sharing and playing together. We loved playing with the toy cars as well as setting up the train set.

In maths we have been focussing on number. Some of us have been counting out amounts whereas others have been matching. Some of us have even started to make numbers using 10's and units.

The highlight this week was definitely our swimming session. Some children were interacting brilliantly in the pool. Other children showed they have become much more confident in the water and have started swimming on their own.

We have also enjoyed playing outside this week even though it has been cold and have been interacting much more with the equipment and our peers:





News from Autumn Cluster

Ideas for homework

1. Role play with different transport i.e. setting up a train set, playing with toy cars, playing with diggers and tractors. You could even take a trip on a new type of transport i.e. bus or train.
2. Counting games and activities – this can be as simple as counting out sweets or counting as you walk up stairs.
3. The children all now have reading books so if you could read these at least twice a week at home that would be great. We will change them on a Tuesday but if you need them changed before please let us know.

We hope you all have a great weekend.

Charlotte, Tina, Ali, Nina, Maria and Kim



News from Autumn Cluster

Gold Class

Happy belated New Year everybody! It's been great to see everyone return to school in such good spirits this week, beating the January blues. With the New Year, we have a new topic. Gold Class will be joining Red and Orange in exploring inventions and transport. Twinned with this, we will see a range of topics in Maths, Science and Literacy including buoyancy, time, area/measure and poetry.



In this week's literacy lessons, Gold Class have been writing instructions. We've worked with pupils to turn around our 'speak' from 'I' and 'my' to 'your', and have promoted the use of clear and concise language. Activities such as 'robot teacher' and some blindfold games have helped us develop these skills.

through various activities that relate back to real life. In our most recent lesson for example, we observed clips of Usain Bolt winning the 100m race in just under 10s and researched similar time based questions, first making our own predictions.

Core subjects aside, this week has also seen us engaging with swimming lessons, historical enquiry in topic, soundscapes in music and tasks for keeping safe online. Pupils have engaged well in class across the board. A busy start, well done Gold Class.

Have a great weekend,

Richard, Teresa, Julie, Marie, Helen, Sian, Hannah (and Sophie and Lorraine!)

~ The Gold Class Team

In Maths, we have been looking at time, exploring just how long a second, minute, hour etc. is



News from Autumn Cluster

Ideas for Homework

In keeping with investigation into time in Maths, please encourage the use of realistic time frames 'around and about' and at home. Visible set timers for different activities would be of benefit. For Literacy, it would be great if you could encourage engagement with instructions in different contexts e.g. cooking as well as the use of the phrases: firstly, secondly, lastly, now and next. Please don't forget to read with your child and thanks to those that have been doing so. Do feel free to leave a note if you feel a book is ready to be swapped.





News from Winter Cluster

Silver Class

Welcome back to Silver Class everyone, we hope you all had fun during the Christmas break. We have had a wonderful week settling back in, working hard and playing lots. Our story is The Three Little Pigs. We have been getting involved during the story by huffing and puffing down the pigs' straw and wooden houses.



In maths we have been comparing big and small toys and trying to build the tallest tower. In literacy we have enjoyed looking for letters in rice and practicing writing them.



Have a good weekend and let us know if you have anything at home that is big and small,

Emily, Jane, Niki, Jill, Jimena and Annie



News from Winter Cluster

White Class

We can't believe how fast the first week of term has gone and how hard White Class have been working! There has been lots of yawning at the end of the days as we get ready to go home!

This term we will be learning all about traditional tales through our new topic Once Upon A Time. We started this week with our sensory story the three little pigs. Some of us enjoyed pretending to be the naughty wolf and huffing and puffing to blow the house down.



We have also worked hard in numeracy to match, order different numbers as well as count out different amounts

Have a lovely weekend

Emma, Pauline, Lynette, Zoe and Jane

9.30 - 11.30AM
OPEN MORNING
24TH JANUARY

An invitation for parents, carers or
those working with a child who has
additional needs.

Come along to find out more about
Shift, our support group for the
Abingdon area.

Children welcome

The Barns, Christ Church,
Northcourt Road, Abingdon,
OX14 1PL

www.shift-abingdon.org.uk