

Dear Parents and Carers

The weather has certainly kept us on our toes this week. The flurry of snow on Tuesday was an excellent reason to get wellies and coats on and have a dance in the snow. There was also enough snow to build a few snowballs, although not enough for a snowman unfortunately. On that note, please remember to send your children into school with warm clothes and coat. (please make sure they are named)

Thinking about the weather, please remember to check our website, in the first instance, if we have a bigger downpour of snow, as this will be the first place we will update in case of school closure. We will not close unless absolutely necessary, following a risk assessment putting our pupils and staff at the heart of all of our decision making.

We have had visits from Leo, the cat, as well as Bailey, the dog, this week. Leo has been in classes and Bailey has been for a walk with Blue Class. Their presence in school has been a real hit with both pupils and staff. Bailey visited my office and also greeted most of the pupils this morning.



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

One more fantastic week has gone very quickly for Green Class. It has definitely been a very cold week, but it was lovely to see our school covered in snow on Tuesday afternoon and we all loved playing with the snowflakes outside.

In our Sensology session this week, we explored cinnamon sticks, we tasted cinnamon biscuits and we loved dancing and listening to the song "this little light of mine". We have had lots of lovely smiles and clapping during our session. It was so nice to see our friends from Yellow Class during our Cluster Assembly on Monday and it was great to share our achievements and give the "Wow Certificates" to our students. We are all so proud of their hard work and perseverance.

We have been very lucky this week, as Leo the therapy cat visited our Class for first time and the children were so excited to see him and play with him. Green Class students were very kind and gentle with Leo and we are sure that he is going to come back to Green Class soon. The children were also so excited to see Max the therapy dog on Wednesday and they really enjoyed giving him lovely cuddles. One of our favourite activities this week was watching the story of "Jack and the Beanstalk" and planting our own seeds. Green Class have had so much fun exploring the seeds and the soil and watering their individual beanstalk. We are definitely going to take care of them and we can't wait to see them grow. We have also had a wonderful session with Music Steve, singing relaxing songs and Lullabies while the children were enjoying having their 'Thursday hand massage'.



We hope you have a lovely 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 were delighted to hear that you enjoyed the pink pig nose cakes sent home last Friday and as promised, we have included some photos of the children making their cakes. The children loved the cake making process-we certainly have some future Bake Off contestants in Yellow Class.



All of the children are responding so well to our "Once Upon a Time" topic. We are reading various stories and nursery rhymes with Jack and Jill being a particular favourite. It would be really good if you could go over some nursery rhymes with the children at home.

During our hand function activity the children loved using mushy peas for their mark making, with some of the children even deciding to do a "taste test". On Tuesday afternoon, we all enjoyed watching the snow falling and some of us went outside to feel the snow.



We would like to give a special mention to our new pupil Oliver who has settled so well into Yellow Class. Have a lovely weekend,

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



News from Summer Cluster

Pink Class

Pink Class have had a lovely week. We had a visit from Hilary Wainer who is the founder of TACPAC. She led a session with the class and some visitors from Yellow and Green class. It was a great session for everyone involved. Hilary was very complimentary of our students how well they engaged with the session and their communication with the staff. All of Pink Class thoroughly enjoy their weekly TAC PAC session. The website has some great resources and information if you would like to take a look for use at home (www.tacpac.co.uk).

We simply had to go outside on Tuesday and explore the snow. Luckily we had been doing a lot of switch work at the start of the week and so we were able to get dry afterwards by using switches to turn the hair dryer on ourselves. This was the highlight for some of the students who found this absolutely hilarious.



Have a lovely weekend

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



News from Summer Cluster

Blue Class

This week in blue class we have had a lovely week trying new things which include parsnip and aubergine on our healthy pizzas.

Some of our students ventured off to the Stonehill Community Garden to help with some of their projects like the new irrigation system and one of our students wrote about their experience on the computer.

What I did at the allotment.

I met a man. his name was Richard. I went Into A Chicken Coop. There Were 3 Chickens I watched Matt feed the Chickens and his glove got pecked off by a Chicken. Then me and my friend Explored The Allotment, there was lots of Plants growing. Then we had a chat with Richard. He said that we can help every Wednesday, because it was helpful.

What I did in cooking this week.

I put my own toppings on the Pizza, I put on cheese and sweetcorn. It was very healthy for me, then I ate the pizza it was delicious. I did not want the Healthy Fruit salad.



Joe, Esther, Liza, Matt, Olivia and Sarah



News from Summer Cluster

Purple Class

This term the students have been recapping on what constitutes a healthy lifestyle. We have been looking at and exploring a range of healthy foods and sorting into correct food groups to support understanding that we need a variety of foods to stay healthy. Some students have been experimenting with different flavoured smoothies in order to plan a future enterprise project at school. Some students have decided to try a hot lunch when it is something they like on the menu.

We were all excited to see the huge snowflakes fall from our panoramic class windows and were able to recap on last terms topic of what suitable clothing to wear when out in the snow. Purple class went out for a walk to the local shop in the snow.

At OXSRAD students have enjoyed being in the Spinning room with the disco lights and listening to the music. We have been keeping healthy with our fitness regime, team games and using the equipment.





Happy weekend everyone!

Leah, Mary, Sean & Laura



News from Autumn Cluster

Orange Class

We have had another busy week....with the snow and a visit from Leo the cat adding to the excitement.

In topic we have continued to think about transport. This week we tried making our own boats out of plasticine as well as constructing cars out of k-Nex and Lego. We tried different designs until they were able to work how we wanted them to. In role play sessions we enjoyed exploring construction vehicles and also played well together using the train set.

In maths this week we have been thinking about 'real life' addition and subtraction. We have been using lots of role play to explore this such as using pretend food or fish in the pond. We have explored the language more and less as well as getting more and taking some away.

In literacy we have continued with our instructions. This time these were about catching a space ship. We loved acting this out. This week we focussed on mark making. We have been very impressed with how well some children have traced over and copied letters. Some children have been writing the instructions and have done so well using instructional language.





Ideas for homework

1. Mark making activities using pens and pencils – encouraging the children to trace over and copy letters and patterns. This could also be encouraging children to write for real life purposes i.e. a card or shopping list.
2. Real life adding activities i.e. put 2 cakes on the plate now put 2 more.
3. Construction – using lego or other construction to build different vehicles.

We hope you all have a great weekend.

Charlotte, Tina, Ali, Nina, Maria and Kim



News from Autumn Cluster

Red Class

In Red Class this week we have continued to work on writing instructions for using different types of transport. This week we thought about using a rocket to go to space, which was the most popular theme so far and inspired some absolutely wonderful pieces of writing. Some of us have been concentrating really hard on sounding out every letter and using finger spaces between words, while some of us have been focusing on the presentation of our work and the features of numbered lists.

We have continued to put together timelines in topic, this time for historical periods and the inventions of different types of transport. Next Thursday we are excited to be visiting the local Abingdon Museum for an interactive workshop on the history of transport and some time in the gallery.

This week we have also met Angela, our new swimming teacher. She has been putting us all through our paces in the pool and we all had a great time and are looking forward to our next lesson.

Finally, this week saw the elections of School Council members. After giving wonderful campaign speeches, congratulations to Ryan and Isabel, our representatives from Red Class!

Katherine, Julie, Nicola, and Sarah





News from Autumn Cluster

Gold Class

Welcome to the end of Week 3! Gold Class have worked hard this week and have thoroughly enjoyed the cold weather outside – albeit a brief flurry of snow.



Literacy this week has seen us finishing our instructions for our Marvellous Medicines. **This is a Grandma health warning**, please take care to avoid any suspicious looking concoctions.

In maths we have finished investigating time (both digital and analogue) and have since been working on the term 'difference between' as an alternative to subtraction. For this, pupils have been finding out that on some occasions it is easier and quicker to find the difference between the two numbers rather than count backwards.

In D&T and Topic we have been designing boats and finding out which materials are best to use as well as comparing between floating and sinking objects. In Music we created a 'rain' soundscape using the resonance board, a selection of drums and some body percussion; and last of all, we're 'looking forwards' to our first dance session today (well... most of us anyhow)!

It has been a pleasure work with Gold Class this week and I look forwards to seeing them again on Monday. (PTO for homework)



Homework

Please continue to work with your child in understanding and exploring clocks – both analogue and digital. Further to this, where possible, any simple mental subtraction challenges would be of benefit, whether out and about or at home.

Have a great weekend,

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

~ The Gold Class Crew



News from Winter Cluster

Silver Class

This week we've been reading about The Chinese New year and learning about why each year is named after an animal (we especially like the dragon). We've made our own beautiful paperchain dragons and masks. In our problem solving lessons we have been sorting and matching items. Music is a wonderful way to incorporate all areas of learning. In our drumming session we showed off each of our strengths, some of us are good at counting our hits on the drum, some are good at keeping a steady beat to a song and some of us can carefully hit the drum softly or REALLY LOUDLY.



Get the children involved with matching socks, it's great for developing problem solving and reasoning skills and it's a life skill (plus less work for parents),

Emily, Niki, Jill, Jimena and Annie



News from Winter Cluster

White Class



The children were fascinated to see giant snowflakes falling through the air. Later on, we got all wrapped up to find out what the snow felt like on our hands and tongues. We have enjoyed listening to the ukele and having a strum ourselves.

The three little pigs from our story went shopping for ingredients for a tasty vegetable stew. We have explored smelling, tasting and snapping up the vegetables to help make the stew for our piggy friends. Our fingers have also been very busy making biscuits and we loved shaping our dough into rounds. The biscuits tasted very nice at snack time! We left a little bit of space for some chocolate caterpillar cake for our birthday boy on Wednesday though. Mmmmm.

Have a lovely weekend,

Jane, Pa

Community Links

We have been notified by Hannah at Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot about of a performance taking place over the February break that might be of interest to you:

This fantastic show is coming to Cornerstone on Fri 22 Feb called MESSY: Meet Daisy. She's got a messy brain and a messy bedroom. No matter what she does, the Mess just seems to follow her about! The only trouble is, it makes it very difficult to look for stuff. Important stuff. Important stuff like Mr Twiggy (the class hamster)!



Performed by a Deaf and hearing cast with Sign Supported English, Messy has been created in partnership with ADHD Foundation and all performances are relaxed performances. Audiences are welcome to stand up, sit down, wriggle around, leave or come back in when they need, there aren't any loud noises and house lights will stay on in the theatre.

MESSY is aimed at children aged 4 – 8 years.

Performances: Fri 22 Feb at 11:30 and 2:30.

Tickets: £7, conc/children £5 and family of 4 ticket £20

We offer group discounts and registered carers go free.

Link to the event on our website: www.cornerstone-arts.org/whats/messy More information about relaxed theatre can be found on our website: www.cornerstone-arts.org/accessible-theatre

I was hoping you may be able to share this information within your organisation and also with any families you believe would enjoy this accessible theatre show? I have leaflets for the show which I could send to you.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me:

Hannah Mullan

Marketing and Audience Development Assistant

Direct Dial: 01235 515147

Cornerstone, 25 Station Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 7NE

Working hours: Monday to Friday 9-5pm