

8th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

What a week we had last week.....

It all started on Monday when we had a call from our friends from OFSTED who told us they would be paying us a visit on Tuesday. Thank you to all those parents and carers who completed the online survey and spoke to the inspectors in the morning outside the school. I have to say we as a school had great pleasure in showing off our school and the inspectors seemed impressed with the work that our amazing staff do in supporting your wonderful children. The official report will not come out for a couple of weeks and of course we will send you a copy as soon as we have permission to do so.

On Friday I woke up to a snow drift where my car was completely covered with snow; the depth was up past my bumper. Making calls to our transport provider at 6:10 and continuing to assess the situation, the decision was made to close the school on Health and Safety grounds because of the risk posed to both pupils and staff. Please be assured that these decisions are not easy to make. We will only close the school following the advice of the transport team and working with our site manager. I know this puts extra pressures on families, although I do hope you managed to spend some additional time with your family enjoying the snow.

Silver Class have a new addition, Stripes the tiger got to go home with Albie last week and went to the opticians to help choose new glasses. As you can see, he had a very tiring day. Thank you to Albie's parents for the photos.



Dates for your diary

- Parent Consultation Day **Wednesday 6th March** – Letter to follow
- PFSA Easter Disco-**Saturday 30th March 14:00-16:00**

Have a good 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

Green Class have been focussing on different exciting activities this week and have been working brilliantly. We have been practising our 'brushing teeth' skills and the children seem to love the taste of toothpaste and enjoyed exploring the toothbrushes as well. We are sure that our lovely smiles are definitely going to be more shiny and bright.

Green class students had a great fun during our 'attention bucket' activities this week and loved the new exciting addition, the 'flying balloon'. We really enjoyed looking at the balloon as it was flying above our heads making a very funny noise. During our Communication Group work, the children have also been fantastic at choosing the photos of their favourite toys or using their symbol boards to make choices. On Tuesday morning, we were very happy to see the lovely team from the Trinity Church of Abingdon and we were excited to sing with our friends from Pink Class.

We have been very lucky this week, as our friends from Red Class also came to sing to us and interact with the children on Wednesday afternoon. 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' seem to be one of the favourite sensory stories for Green Class and the children laughed a lot especially when poor Goldilocks falls off the chair. During our Art activities, the children had a great time exploring the porridge and making marks with their fingers, spoons and glue spreaders. Leo the cat also came back to Green Class this week and the children were delighted to play with him. The highlight of this week has definitely been our Dance Club on Friday morning. The children have been amazing at following the rhythm and moving so beautifully.



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 just had to show you how the beautiful crowns that the children made have been displayed in our classroom. Yellow class is a class of little princes and princesses who once again have been working so hard.



As part of our "Once Upon a Time" topic the children have been choosing three different wishes in order to compose our own class story. The children have loved making choices and listening to their finished story. It would be wonderful if you could continue reading stories and nursery rhymes at home. The children also worked so hard during their physio sessions this week.



As part of our hand function work, the children loved exploring soft soil and pumpkin seeds.



Have a lovely weekend,

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



News from Summer Cluster

Pink Class

Pink class have had a busy week filled with lots of our favourite activities. We used our senses to continue exploring lots of different textures and smells. We finished our sensory story based on 'The Gingerbread Man' and made our own gingerbread. Some of us liked the ginger smell and we all had fun mixing the ingredients. Our new story is based on the book 'Handa's Surprise'. We all enjoyed exploring the different fruits. pineapple, orange, banana and tangerine. There were lots of smiles as we felt the tickly grass and the monkey's tail as it curled around us.

We have started a new dance group on Fridays and there were lots of smiles as we glided and danced around the room to the different types of music.

We have also been working hard at developing our independence skills, such as brushing our teeth after lunch and having a drink.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.



Julie, Tor, Maria, Dawn, Tracy, Norah, Michele, Lorna, Janet, Daniel, Clare



News from Summer Cluster

Blue Class

This week in blue class we have been working on some art work to make paper mache creations. We also visited the allotment last week to help with some useful projects in their community garden.

Next week we hope to have some of our students participate in the Panathlon at the White Horse Tennis Centre. This event covers lots of the aspects that we have been covering in our PE lessons.

This term we have been introduced to a new dance teacher who is helping us with proprioception and coordination of our bodies to music, some of us even managed to learn a new dance routine with lots of challenging body movements and concepts to grasp.

We all appear to be enjoying the lessons with our new swimming teacher who is helping us to develop our swimming strokes on a Monday and Tuesday.

Our students are making good choices during their cooking sessions and are encouraged to wash up the items they have used afterwards. Hopefully this is carrying over to home also.

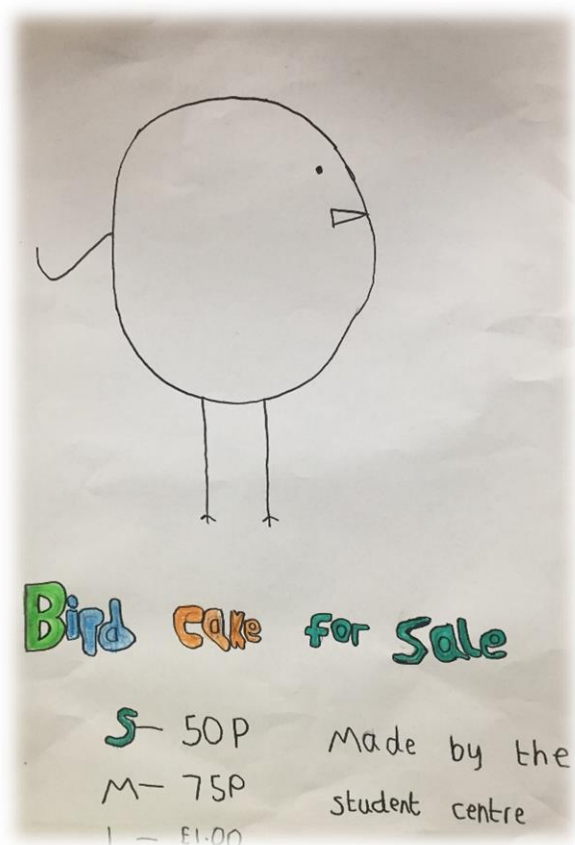




News from Summer Cluster

Purple Class

We have had another busy week in Purple Class. Our Fitzwaryn friends came over on Tuesday to continue to support with our Enterprise project and the students have been very busy making lots of bird cakes to sell. A group of students took on the advertising responsibility and designed and produced some posters to display around school. Please let your class teachers know via the home/school communication books if you or someone you know would like to purchase one of our fabulously made bird cakes! (see below for sizes and prices). We will sell the cakes on a first come basis but will endeavour to keep producing and cater for all requests so please send in your orders and let's keep our garden birds happy.





News from Summer Cluster

Last week we enjoyed one of our 'walks for well-being' which took place at Tilsley Park in the sunshine. We are looking forward to benefiting from this local park in the spring with a planned picnic. We have also enjoyed a very special 'singalong' session with our very own Sean, with the students being able to join in with all their favourites – more to come from 'Soulful Sean'. On Thursday most of the students shopped for Friday's lunch – Spaghetti Bolognese and garlic bread.

We have really enjoyed learning about Chinese new year, listening to the stories, tasting Chinese foods and having a go at lots of Chinese art!



Purple Class - Leah, Mary, Sean and Laura



News from Autumn Cluster

Orange Class

Another 2 weeks have flown by in Orange Class. We hope you all enjoyed the snow day and had lots of fun playing in the snow. The children have been very welcoming to our new friend 'Ava' who joined Orange Class last week.

In topic we have continued to think about transport. This week we have started to think about bridges. We tried making our own bridges out of lego and k-nex. We tried really hard to make these stand up and then tried to push cars under or over the top of these bridges. We also did really well with travelling in different ways in PE. All the children joined in brilliantly.

In maths last week we have continued to think about 'real life' addition and subtraction. We have been using lots of cooking role play and enjoyed making our own potions and recipes by adding more and taking some away. This week we have been focussing on 'big and small', 'long and short and measuring'. In literacy we have moved on to captions about vehicles. We have been doing really well at making sentences about different vehicle parts and have been trying really hard with our mark making.

We had 2 highlights this week....both on Friday. We had a fantastic dance session to the theme of 'The Three Bears' The children joined in fantastically and loved moving in different ways i.e. stomping in Daddy bears boots and tiptoeing in Mummy Bear's shoes. We also loved our trip on the train. The children enjoyed both catching the train and waiting at the station watching the other trains.





News from Autumn Cluster



Ideas for homework

1. Describing parts of vehicles i.e. pointing out car wheels, steering wheel lights etc. If they are able to do this add in describing words i.e. black wheels, shiny lights.
2. Real life adding and taking away by cooking or making pretend recipes.
3. Construction – using lego or other construction to build bridges.

We hope you all have a great weekend.

Charlotte, Tina, Ali, Nina, Maria and Kim



News from Autumn Cluster

Red Class

We all really enjoyed our trip to the Abingdon Museum. We learned about the history in transport in Abingdon during the object handling workshop, and especially enjoyed dressing up as the highwaymen in Bagley Wood. Then we explored the gallery, with a choice of activities including locating and drawing objects such as the MG car and making our own car models. We even had a chance to go right to the top of the museum and look over all of Abingdon. Everyone's engagement and behaviour was a real credit to the school.

In lessons we have been working on creating riddles in literacy, writing descriptive clues for different vehicles. In maths we have been continuing to think about real-life situations when we use calculation, such as paying in a shop or sharing sweets with a friend. It would be great to continue practicing this at home – try pointing out to your child when they are solving a maths problem without realising it, and saying aloud the sum.

The children are continuing to really enjoy the focus on individual reading, and it's lovely to see so many comments from home in their reading record books! Thank you so much for your support.

Katherine, Julie, Nicola, Lynette and Sarah





News from Autumn Cluster

Gold Class

Happy Friday, I trust you have had a good couple of weeks, it's been manic but productive here at Kingfisher school, snow days excluded! Gold class have had a positive couple of weeks and have worked hard across a range of subjects.

Most notably, last Wednesday we went on our class trip to Abingdon Museum and found out about a range of local transport across the ages. This was followed up back at school as we solved the mystery of "The Missing Chocolates" in class and identified who the culprit was using different primary sources of evidence – a skillset critical for a good historian investigating the past.

In literacy we have continued working on poetry, creating and solving riddles as well as writing descriptive poems based upon busy scenes (such as a music gig or a football match). In maths we have solved worded questions, putting our numerical skills into a variety of scenarios. Further to this, we began to look at measuring, whether drawing around and measuring our bodies or taking trundle wheels outside to measure a 100m distance (sadly no one beat Usain Bolt's 9.58s)



In Design and Technology students created and tested boats using their knowledge of different materials and the principles of floating and sinking from lessons earlier in the term. Inevitably there were a variety of soggy results but it took a substantial effort and weight to sink some of the creations!

In PSHE we worked on developing self-confidence and engaged with a range of different active speaking and listening games and activities; and lastly in Music, we have been exploring music technology using the programme 'Soundation4Education'.

Phew! Did you get all of that? We look forwards to continuing to work with you all, and making further strides forward as we step into the last week of this half term.

Have a great weekend,

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

~ The Gold Class Crew



News from Autumn Cluster

Homework

In supporting our work in history, if you have any old artefacts or records/photos from a time before your child was born, it would be beneficial to have a look at these with your child and discuss what it tells us of life at that time as well as why we know this from the object/image. For maths, it would be of great help if you could support your child to conceptualise the length of a mm, cm, m or km. They have been taught an action that represents each of these but any tasks that asks them to estimate different lengths would be of value.





News from Winter Cluster

Silver Class



In Silver Class we've been thinking about how important our hands are and all the lovely things we do with them. To put them to the test we've been doing lots of fine motor skill activities throughout the week. We've also been incredibly good at following visual instructions in our cookery and art. In cookery we have carefully followed steps to making the perfect jam sandwich. Spreading the butter and jam is a tricky job which involves a lot of skill but we all gave it our best shot and loved eating them for snack. In art we've been extended our communication by choosing what coloured Chinese lanterns we'd like to make, what colour glitter we want on them and what colour handle. This also put our cutting and glueing skills to the test. Sometimes we need some hand-over-hand support to get the job done but this helps build up our fine motor skills and our confidence.



Let us know what your busy hands get up to over the weekend,

Emily, Niki, Jill, Jimena and Annie



News from Winter Cluster

White Class

We have enjoyed joining in with our new Good Morning song and we have had a go signing 'I'm happy, let's play!'. We are getting better and better learning and playing together in the classroom. There are lots of exciting toys to explore with friends. Mark making has been top of our list of learning tasks and we loved using chalk and felt tips to make our three little pigs. Little Red Riding Hood has been our exciting story for this week and it was great to pretend being the Big Bad Wolf. In cooking we made tasty cheese toasted sandwiches and explored the changing texture of the bread and cheese.



Good Weekend!
From all staff in White Class

Community Links

Gail and Angeli from OxFSN are running a 2 day course for family carers and parents on Person Centred planning and thinking. It should be particularly helpful for filling in the 'About Me' section of the EHCPlan.



Person Centred Thinking & Planning 2 day course for parents/carers of children or adults with learning disabilities



When: 19th & 29th March 2019 – from 10am -2pm

Where: Abell House, Horspath Driftway, Headington, OX3 7JH

Cost: £30 per person (concessions may be available, please get in touch to discuss)

What is person centred planning? - This is a way of planning that works for everyone but is particularly helpful for children and adults with learning disabilities as it helps us to plan in a more meaningful and structured way with them. For people who have more severe or profound disabilities this approach is vital as it helps us to understand the detail in their lives and what makes them 'tick' as individuals. It brings together the people who know them best to work together to ensure they achieve the best outcomes. The tools used help us identify what matters to the individual, what's important to and for them and how best to support them even if they can't communicate these things vocally. Importantly for families this way of planning actively involves us. It draws on the in depth knowledge we have of our child and includes the perspectives of other family members, friends and people who know them best.

The course covers:

- An introduction to person centred thinking & planning
- What the person centred thinking tools are and how to use them
- Developing a one page profile and starting your first plan

Comments from past participants:

"I think you have given me back my little boy. Person Centred Planning has just freed me to get on with being a parent who loves and cares for their child" (Parent)

"Person Centred Planning gave my son a voice. It helped us to see him as the unique individual he is and helped us lose the labels he'd been given throughout his childhood. It helped us plan for his future and working this way continues to ensure he lives the life he wants to lead" (parent)

For further information and to book your place please contact:

Angeli.vaid@oxfsn.org.uk