

15th March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

What a week we have had at Kingfisher this week. Our pupils have had a great time both in and out of school. Some of Autumn Cluster represented the school at the Primary Pop Event in Oxford. We had a lot of tired pupils the next day, as well as staff and parents. I would like to thank Katherine, teacher of Red Class, for organising the event as well as TAs Lynette, Sarah, Teresa and Yvonne for supporting. There is more information on our Community Page at the back of this Newsletter.

I managed to get out a bit too this week. I went to Riding for the Disabled, the pupils who attend have a fab time, however we couldn't do this at all without the volunteers who support us while we are there. Here is a photo of Polo, with some of the volunteers.



Thankyou to everyone who sent their children to school in Red for Red Nose Day as well as sending in a donation. We are selling cakes to staff later today and Mary has made a cake to raffle. I will let you know how much money we have raised next week, you know how much our staff like cake, so I'm sure we will have raised a healthy amount of money.

Reminder of dates for your diary:

Tuesday 23rd April: St George's Day – keep a look out for information from your class about activities for this day

Monday 29th April: PFSA Meeting – Venue and time to be decided

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

Green class started this week with a lovely Cluster assembly in the Big Hall on Monday afternoon, where we all celebrated our students' amazing progress and we enjoyed listening to the story 'Once Upon a time'. It was great to see some of our students clapping and celebrating for their friends' achievements as well.

During our Sensology session this week, the children explored the smell of garlic and tasted some delicious garlic bread. Their facial expressions were amazing once again, especially when it was time to hold and smell the fresh garlic. The highlight of the session was definitely listening to the loud noise of the gong and the children loved having a go and exploring the different sounds. In our Numeracy activities, Green class students have been busy making shapes using playdough and various tools as well. On Wednesday morning, the children watched the story of the 'Hungry Caterpillar' and chose their favourite colours to paint their individual caterpillar for our display board. The pupils in Green Class definitely love our 'attention bucket and builder activities' and they have been amazing in tracking the different toys and focussing on them. During the 'attention builder activity' this week, we used different colour paint and different size syringes to make a 'messy pizza' on a big piece of white paper card. The children found the activity very entertaining and funny. Our Sensory story for this term is 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and the class are already show great anticipation and enthusiasm during the story. The favourite prompt for our pupils seems to be the strawberry jelly as they love exploring its texture and the 'squelch, squelch' sound of the 'mud'.



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

This week the children enjoyed playing with the wonderful shakers that they all made. This activity enabled the children to choose the type of material that they wanted to use and they were able to select what colours they wished to have for their shaker.



Francesca had a wonderful time doing lots of sensory exploration. She loved exploring the flour and she was really focused during our warm bubbly water play session. Our Treasure basket (as well as our artwork) was based on the story of "The very Hungry Caterpillar" and was made up of lots of different fruit and vegetables. Ada was so proud of herself when she picked out the sweetcorn from the Treasure basket and she managed to pull apart the velcro on the sweetcorn. Super work.





News from Spring Cluster

Once again, the children have been doing so well with their physio work. A special mention to Mia who stood independently in the swimming pool for 20 seconds and did fantastic high kneeling in order to reach an object of interest. In addition, Oliver did super box seating during our good morning communication session.



Finally, a sneaky peek of Matthew making a start on a special surprise, which will be coming your way soon.



Have a great weekend,

Siobhán, María, Yvonne, Sally, Kerryann, Amanda and Hannah



News from Summer Cluster

Pink Class

There has been lots happening in Pink Class this week. We have worked especially hard with our swimming and a special well done to Yujan who has been trying to swim without a woggle and managed 3 strokes. As mentioned last week a highlight has been another visit from Leo our Therapy Cat. He has produced a response from us all. He is extremely soft and gentle and lovely to touch. We thought we would share some photos we have taken from our sessions with you.

Our Sensory story this week has continued to be based on the book 'Mr Gumpy's Outing' by John Burningham. The story includes lots of different sensory things that we love exploring, such as the pig playing in the mud, the horse munching hay, the dog wagging his tail and pressing the switch to make him bark, splashing in the cold river water, drying ourselves up in the warm sun, smelling tea and smelling or tasting cake. Next week we look forward to our story about an Italian Adventure.

It's lovely to see the friendships developing within the class and how we enjoy spending time together. We had fun using the parachute together this week.

We hope you all have a wonderful weekend.



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



News from Summer Cluster

Blue Class

We have had such a nice week in Blue Class. This week we have carried on working on backstroke during our sessions and most of the students are working really hard to try and improve on this aspect.

Storm Gareth managed to put a stop to us going to the café this week as there was a torrential downpour as soon as we left.

We were lucky enough to be joined by Lorraine (Headteacher) for our trip to OXSRAD on Thursday and students managed change well as the spinning teacher was absent so we chose between going in the gym and using aerobic equipment and playing a game of skittles. OXSRAD provides such a great environment for our students to access sport as some are able to take part in sensory activities in between to help them manage being out and about.

On Friday we hope to go on a new adventure and explore nature but this will be dependent on the weather so fingers crossed.

We won't be cooking lunches for the rest of this term so we will move to the small hall with the rest of the school and hope to continue this next term. Students have been carrying on with food technology and made some apple muffins for our walk on Friday.





News from Summer Cluster

Purple Class

This week, our Fitzwaryn friends came over to join us again for enterprise and we have continued with preparing our flower pots to sell as gifts. We have now planted the flowers in the pots and they are really starting to look great!

Matthew and William had a really successful first work experience session at Barnardo's charity shop. The boys came back to school beaming and were very proud of themselves. We have had some great feedback from Lisa the boss regards both boys. Keep it up lads.

Purple Class have watched some Red Nose videos and looked at some pictures to find out a little more why we have Red Nose Day and what it is for. We decided as a class to make cakes to sell.

We have been busy helping to make banners for the upcoming Consumer Challenge Quiz and have now got a giant monkey mascot to take complete with his Kingfisher t-shirt! Appropriately named King.

Lewis, Brandon and Matthew C shopped at Tesco this week to purchase our ingredients for Friday's lunch. They worked well to find all the items on our lists.

The week has finished with non-uniform and wearing red for Red Nose Day. A relaxed and fun day making red nose cakes, holding a raffle and preparing our lunch (chosen by Matthew Webb) – burger and chips (home cooked) yum!

We still have a few bird cakes left to sell so please do ask your family, friends and neighbours if they would like to purchase a bird cake for their garden. They are great for bird tables!





News from Autumn Cluster

Orange Class

We have had a good week in Orange Class. We have been thinking about climbing. We have all been working hard on our climbing skills from climbing up steps to climbing over high frames and up wall ladders. We are all looking forward to our climbing trip on Friday.

In literacy we have been looking at fact files about famous sports people. Some of us have been naming the sports and the clothing they wear. Others of us have been looking at the fact files to find information about the athletes.

In topic we have continued to look at the body. This week finishing off thinking about where our heart is and what it does and then looking at the digestive system. We have thought about how we eat and where food goes after we have eaten it.

In maths we have been thinking about 'one and lots'. The children have loved doing this in cooking get one bit of food and lots of food. We have also worked on recognising numbers without counting using dice and number spot games.



Ideas for homework

1. Talking about their heart, feeling it beat, using toy stethoscope to listen to your heart or teddies heart.
2. Using language 'one and lots' in play and at meal times.
3. Asking questions when looking at pictures using 'what' and 'where'

Hope you all have a good weekend,

Charlotte, Tina, Ali, Nina, Maria and Ki



News from Autumn Cluster

Red Class

One of the big excitements of this week has been our trips to the climbing wall for climbing taster sessions. All the children were really enthusiastic about this, and were very sensible during the session, with lots of bravery also on show. It was a huge achievement to find the holds and pull ourselves up, and then trust to the rope and our friends belaying us to come down again. There were lots of requests from children to come back another time – maybe we need our own climbing wall at Kingfisher?

In maths this week we have been exploring different types of number and number lines. We had a look at boats on the sea and counting both up into the sky and then counting down in negative numbers underneath the water. In literacy we have been learning about some inspiring sportspeople and will start writing fact files next week. And in topic we have been continuing to learn about our bodies – we all had loads of fun being red blood cells pushed around by the heart to the lungs and organs!

Katherine, Julie, Nicola, and Sarah





News from Autumn Cluster

Gold Class

Happy Friday all ye cheery Gold Class associates. I trust you've had a good week, we've remained pretty swept off our feet at school with not only the wind, but also how busy we've all been. The pupils don't appear to have minded even one bit however, they've gone with the flow whether blown off their feet at Abbey Park, or reaching the top of a climbing wall.



This week in our literacy we have been working on fact-files. Whether it has been about Gerard, Chris Hoy or another (slightly more relevant) sports personality, the children have been reading through example fact-files to identify key features and are now in the middle of researching - ready to create their own.

In maths we have continued using 100squares for addition and subtraction and have started to investigate fractions. Today, this was very practical as we chopped up muffins, draw fraction shapes and split cubes and marbles into different amounts to represent a given fraction.

Did I mention muffins? We made sultana and apple muffins in D&T this week... and you'd best talk to your children because if I go into

too much detail about how we modelled the digestive system in Science using a banana, Coca Cola and a pair of tights, you'll not be able to eat your dinner! The classroom was... fragrant after that lesson.

Well done to all Gold Class pupils for their climbing. I look forwards to writing about how Red Nose day (Friday 14th), and Consumer Challenge went in our newsletter next week!



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

~ The Gold Class Crew



News from Autumn Cluster

Homework

Please explore the basic concept of fractions with your child. Use the vocabulary for fractions as much as you are able to e.g. show me half of the room, eat a quarter of that cookie; and challenge your children to explain what a half or a quarter is to you in their own words. Please continue to read with your children, it's really having a noticeable impact!





News from Winter Cluster

Silver Class

We have been enjoying reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* this week and watching him eat lots and lots of food. We've been exploring symmetry by making beautiful symmetrical butterflies. Some we have made with our hands and others we only painted one side of to see what would happen when we folded them in half. In maths we've been comparing big and small versions of the same object.



Can you find big and small object at home? Let us know!

Emily, Niki, Jill, Jimena and Annie





News from Winter Cluster

White Class

We continue our topic Let's Explore (about growing). Our story this week is The Magnificent Sunflower; all about a sunflower that grows and grows so that it even grows bigger than a skyscraper. We have begun to explore which animals from the story are bigger than others. Is a rabbit bigger than a horse? We will continue to think about this next week in our Numeracy lessons.

In our Cooking/Food Exploration lesson this week the children explored the shape and parts of a sunflower and turned this knowledge into a sunflower picture made from grapes, cheese and celery. All the children were encouraged to touch, smell and taste the ingredients. Everyone was very good at joining in with this exploration. Most of the children liked grapes, but not many liked the cheese. The celery proved to be an interesting texture and some of the children enjoyed snapping it up and biting it. The children communicated their likes and dislikes by making a sentence using PECS: 'I like grapes.'; 'I don't like cheese.'



The children's sunflower seeds are just beginning to show some growth, thank goodness! But we haven't stopped there. We have turned our attention to exploring 'safe' plants that we can eat. Mint and coriander were the two herbs touched and tasted and so far, coriander is preferred over mint. The children then filled their pots with compost and sowed coriander seeds. The rest of the children will do this task tomorrow (Friday), so more photos to follow.





News from Winter Cluster

Once a week, we have a guided choosing session. Some of the children prefer to spend a quiet moment with a special book or toy, while other children enjoy playing together or in tandem with the same kinds of toys. It is good to see the children using ideas from our lessons in their own play, particularly from Numeracy. This has included looking at the size and shape of toys, as well as sorting toys and putting them into containers.



In Sensory Club last Friday we focused on exploring dry substances, such as sand, macaroni and soft shredded paper with hidden 'treasure' (small toys that can be grouped by colour or type). Tomorrow, the children will explore shaving foam with swirls of paint and a firm favourite, cornflour and water.



We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

From Jane, Zoe, Pauline and Lynette in White Class

Community Links

Choir news

This Monday Kingfisher choir performed at the multi-school Primary Pop event in Oxford, with children from Red, Orange and Gold classes. They sang a variety of pop songs in ensemble in two concerts, one after the other. We were all very tired at the end, but had a fantastic time. The children were all so well-behaved and fully participated in all the singing, and we have had compliments from other schools on their performance – well done everyone!

