

**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019**

Dear Parents and Carers

The weather has certainly improved and Spring definitely seems to be well and truly here. This gives us more opportunity to be out and about not only in school but also in the community.

Last week we managed to raise £106 for Comic Relief, thank you to you all for sending in donations and allowing your children to wear red. We had a cake made by Mary, one of our TAs, which was raffled off and there were also cupcakes on sale in the staff room made by Purple Class. This week we have been wearing odd socks for World Down Syndrome Awareness Day. We managed to get some of our staff pose for a photo. We are very proud of what we do for charities at Kingfisher and we, with your support, will continue to do this. We do always seem to do well with raising money when cakes are being sold.



### Dates for your Diary

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March:** PFSA Easter Disco **14.00-16.00**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April:** Last day of Term-**14.00 finish**

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

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> 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

We have had such a great week in Green Class. Our students have not stopped impressing all of us with their hard work and brilliant progress.

During our P.E session on Monday afternoon, the children worked hard on practising their skills going up and down the steps. It was great seeing them trying their best and being so determined and ready to actually 'take the next step' with minimal adult support. We had lots of smiles and clapping at the end of our session. Some of our students have also managed to take steps independently in and outside of our classroom and have begun standing up by themselves. What a great achievement Green Class!

Our Sensology and Sensory cooking sessions have definitely started having a positive impact on our students as they now seem happier to touch different materials or ingredients and also are beginning to explore new tastes and food. On Tuesday morning, our friends from Pink Class and Trinity Church of Abingdon definitely put a smile on our faces, as they sang the 'Baby shark' song which is one of the children's favourite ones. Our Art activities this week were full of glitter and paint as the children chose their favourite colours to decorate their beautiful butterflies. Music Steve made our students laugh a lot this week as he introduced the 'Green Class Basketball team' by singing our special song and playing 'basketball' with the children using a balloon and a bucket. We have all had such a great time. The children in Green Class also love the Dance club and they always look forward to Friday morning. We have some lovely photos to share with you from our Dance club from last week.



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 have had yet another very busy week of fun-filled learning. All of the children loved participating in their Thursday morning dance session. The dance sessions encourage the children to move in different ways, for instance, via crawling, kicking their legs, rolling or using their hands and arms. Different music tempos are used to emphasize particular movements. For example, loud and dramatic music is used to encourage a faster pace of movement whereas 'swan lake' music (which the children really enjoy listening to) is used as a calming and restful part of the dance session. The dance teacher brings in lots of sensory props to promote the session and the children have loved exploring these under and during the parachute activity.



The children have been working so hard with their individual targets. Matthew and Mia did fantastic looking before choosing their preferred object when given a choice of two or three objects. Sienna did amazingly well banging on the ocean drum independently during a communication session and she also gave us a wonderful smile. Diesel did great mark making work this week and he managed to produce clear, circular marks.





## News from Spring Cluster



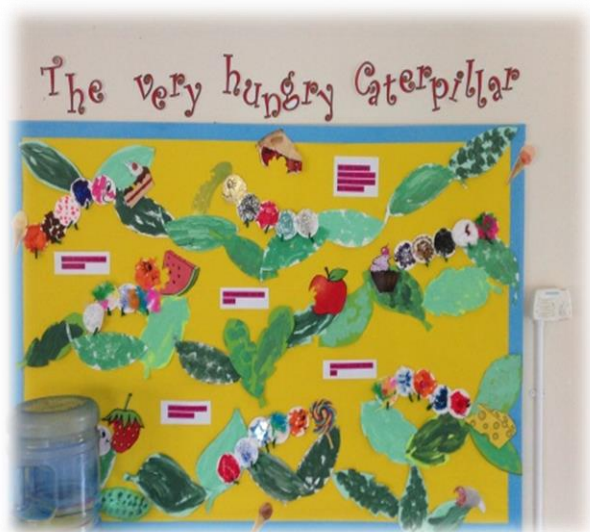
Francesca adored our sensory messy play with apple sauce. She enjoyed watching and listening as the apple sauce fell from the spoon on to the tray. Habibou enjoyed participating in music making with Music Steve and his guitar. Ada and Sienna both worked brilliantly during their rebound therapy session, which incorporated lots of physio work.



The children also managed to finish their delightful caterpillars, which are now colourfully decorating our "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" display board. Finally, we would like to share a photograph of all of the wonderful children in Yellow class celebrating Odd Sock Day together.



# News from Spring Cluster



Have a great weekend,

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



# News from Summer Cluster

## Pink Class

We have had a lovely week in Pink Class despite quite a few bugs still hanging around. We have had all the usual elements of the curriculum and thought we would share some highlights from the pupils. We were so proud of Louisa this week. She has been happy holding and grasping objects given to her which has been fantastic. Toby has also used his hands brilliantly this week to start exploring our sensory cooking ingredients independently. Bernard has made lovely progress using the eye gaze which has been great to see and Ethan has done some great work in VI.

Chloe and Rania's highlight of the week is often Sensory Cooking. This week we made savoury 'Easter Nests'. There was almost a class revolt when everyone realised our Easter cooking wasn't chocolate based but they turned out to be very tasty and offered us so many different sights, smells, textures and tastes to explore. Despite a lovely cookery session Chloe and Rania's favourite activity was supplanted by a visit from Leo the Therapy Cat. Finally Yujan has managed a few strokes in the pool today without the use of a woggle.

All the students in Pink Class love knowing what they have done well. At the end of each session we finish by praising each student for what they have achieved in that particular session and they all love having their work celebrated.

Next week we have a music group coming in to deliver a special session. We look forward to sharing our news about that next week.





# News from Summer Cluster



*Tor, Juliette, María, Dawn, Tracy, Norah, Lorna, Janet, Daniel, Clare.*



# News from Summer Cluster

## Blue Class

What a week it has been in blue class.

We have been working so hard and it's really evident the students are starting to make with their swimming. Some of the students in school will be going to the panathlon in May and we tried some of the challenges that they may face in the water on Tuesday so as treasure hunts of letters and numbers in the pool and swimming races which was great.

On Tuesday we ventured off to the Earth Trust in Radley to work on some road safety skills, learning how to safely cross the roads and manage the environment around our school.

Wednesday is a really busy day for our students with some horse riding and others making cakes while following instructions with increasing independence.

It is also nice to see the students taking part in daily living skills activities such as washing, tidying, delivering items and around food preparation.

We have been working on contrasting colours during art and this week we tried adding salt to paint to create an ocean effect.





# News from Summer Cluster

## Purple Class

The week started rather excitingly for a few Purple students who attended this years Consumer Challenge Quiz at Unipart House. The competition is held each year and involves teams from each special school across the county displaying their knowledge of keeping safe, emergency services and consumer protection. Students make their own banners to take to support their team of 4 and this year we also took King (our giant monkey) wearing a Kingfisher T-shirt as our mascot.

Enterprise this week continued with the theme of growing plants now the spring has finally arrived. This week we have focussed on planting seeds and will be attempting to grow as selection of commonly used herb plants. William and Matthew have had another successful work experience at Barnardo's and are developing their skills of shop work each week.

As our topic this term is all about different leisure activities, the class took a vote and have decided to plan visits to a trampoline park and a pool with waterslides and special features. We have also started to think about a plan for our outside area and have started to tidy up our pots and replant.

Josh, Harry and Sam shopped this week at Tesco for ingredients to cook Friday's lunch. This we Sam has chosen Mexican Taco's -yum!

Happy weekend from Purple Class!

*Leah, Mary, Sean and Laura*





# News from Summer Cluster





# News from Summer Cluster





# News from Autumn Cluster

## Orange Class

Another busy week in Orange class has flown by. We have been thinking about cycling this week.

In literacy we have been looking at information and pictures about cycling and identifying key objects and answering simple where and who questions. Some of us are answering by listening to the text being read and others by looking at the picture.

In maths we have continued to look at estimating as well as thinking about the vocabulary 'one and lots'. We have been doing this in structured teaching sessions as well as in role play using rice to make different recipes.

In topic we have continued to think about how our body works. We have been looking at how food travels through the body, the different parts of our body we use to eat and the different parts of our body food travels through. Thinking about our bodies has also led to us doing some healthy baking in cooking. This week we made some healthy flapjacks. We have also enjoyed our doctor role play sessions where we have been looking after patients and writing doctors notes.

Finally we would like to say how proud we were of all the children at our climbing session last week. All of the children were really brave whether it was just putting the harness on, climbing a bit on the wall or climbing all the way to the top.





# News from Autumn Cluster



## Ideas for homework

1. Talking about different parts of our body we use to eat i.e. teeth, lips, tongue. Talking about how the food travels through our body.
2. Role play cooking – guessing or counting how many cups of rice/flour etc will fill the bowl.
3. Asking questions when looking at pictures or when out and about using 'where' and 'who'

Hope you all have a good weekend,

*Charlotte, Tina, Ali, Nina, Maria and Kim*



# News from Autumn Cluster

## Red Class

As always, it has been another busy week for us in Red Class with lots of activities including a park walk, gardening and feeding chickens at the allotment, and horse riding. We have also made some amazing progress in swimming and several of the children have achieved some personal bests – Zenun with his jumping in, Isabel star-floating without support, and David swimming the length of the pool unaided for the first time! We are really proud of them.

Continuing with our active theme, in literacy this week we have begun to make fact files about some inspiring sports stars, using the internet for research. In maths we have been thinking about halves and quarters and learning some new names for them – 0.5 and 0.25. It would be great if you could practice referring to things in this way at home to reinforce the concept. In life skills we have been learning about the importance of washing our hands to stop germs spreading and played a game in which some glittery “germs” spread around the whole class within minutes just from one person.

Finally, everyone enjoyed wearing odd socks yesterday for World Down Syndrome day!

*Katherine, Julie, Nicola, and Sarah*





# News from Autumn Cluster





# News from Autumn Cluster

## Gold Class

Happy Friday All. As ever it has been a busy week in Gold with lots going on.

We have continued to write and finish up our fact-files in literacy and these are now looking good, particularly for those of you who are football fans out there!

In maths this week we have continued to work on fractions. All pupils are now able to identify a visual representation of a half and a quarter and some can spot visual representations of more tricky fractions such as  $\frac{2}{7}$  or  $\frac{3}{8}$ . Next week we will begin by looking at fractions of amounts, splitting physical resources up into halves, thirds and quarters.



In D&T this week we have created healthy flapjack with dates, seeds, oats and mixed fruit – it was absolutely delicious. Admittedly, our attempt on Tuesday flopped when it was ‘a little’ overdone in the oven but we came back in full force on Wednesday with the other half of the group acing the recipe. All pupils enjoyed some of the flapjack at breaktime on Thursday.

Angela, the swimming instructor and Jeana the dance instructor have both been back in town this week and we have made good progress in both of these subjects. In

Art we have been making clay pots and in Science we investigated the circulatory system acting out the role of blood, as we ran from the lungs to the heart, to the body and back again to deliver oxygen around our modelled body.

With not long now until Easter, it promises to be pretty action packed over the coming weeks.

Have a great weekend and we will see you soon,

*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 comparing hard and soft materials. We found that some toys are soft and lovely to touch and cuddle, whereas others are hard and fun to play with and make noise with. It's been fantastic fun hiding toys in a bag and feeling if they are soft or hard then guessing what the hidden toy could be. Silver Class have been playing really well together, sharing toys and joining in with activities together.



**Our trip to Snakes and Ladders is on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April.**

Have a good weekend Silver class and tell us about your favourite soft toy,

*Emily, Niki, Jill, Jimena and Annie*



# News from Winter Cluster

## White Class

In Numeracy this week we have put informal measuring methods on hold to give all our sunflower seedlings a chance to get a little bit bigger. Then we'll be busting the cubes out again to see whose sunflower has grown the most. Instead this week, we've been learning about how we buy things in a shop by using money. It's been great to see the children enthusiastically playing shop by operating the tills and exchanging coins for favourite toys and pretend food.

Some messy painting...



In Cooking/Food Exploration the children experienced three 'snack' foods – breakfast cereal, sweet and salty popcorn and dried mango. Our communication focus was to request a choice and to express a like or a dislike for the food on offer. Most children preferred the crunchy breakfast cereal over the chewy mango.



Last Friday some of the children experienced a trip to a climbing wall and impressed everyone with their ability to get all the way to the top! Another pleasing aspect of the trip was the way in which the children followed instructions and kept themselves safe, as well as having fun.



For the final two weeks of term four we shall explore the way in which the children are growing and getting bigger and taller all the time. Our Sensory Story is *The Growing Story* by Ruth Krauss: a story about a boy who grows out of his clothes and whose puppy grows into a very big dog. Also, I'm sure we'll all be fascinated to see the children's baby and toddler pictures. Let's see if the children recognise themselves and the other children when they were younger.



Finally, the new swimming teacher, Angela, reports that she is very pleased with the progress that all the children are making in the water. Everyone is listening and cooperating with Angela superbly as she teaches them one to one and swims with them in the water. Let's try for some photos next week!

See you after the weekend.

*From Jane, Zoe, Pauline and Lynette in White Class*