

29th March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Some of our pupils have gone even further this week than usual. Two of our oldest pupils took a trip into London with Fitwaryn. They had a great time and saw lots of sights. There were many highlights including buying train tickets and of course lunch. Battered sausage and chips were order of the day for both young men.



As you will see later in the newsletter Purple Class have been working with Fitwaryn to make new baskets for the front of school by recycling old ones. Harry took pride in putting these up, he was tall enough to reach the hook, Mary may have struggled on her own.

There are another couple that have been made by the Enterprise group with our Fitzwaryn friends this week, which we are going to raffle so please let us know if you would like a ticket 25p or a strip £1.00. The lucky winners will be picked next Friday and the baskets sent home.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 30th March: PFSA Easter Disco **14.00-16.00**

Friday 5th April: Last day of Term-**14.00 finish**

Tuesday 23rd April: St George's Day – keep a look out for information from your class about activities for this day. You will receive an invitation to attend soon

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

The Spring has finally arrived and Green Class have definitely been enjoying the lovely weather and the sunshine this week. The children loved going outside, playing with their friends and especially going on the 'go karts' in the playground.

During our library sessions this week, the children did some great choosing between their favourite 'sound books' and they really enjoyed exploring all the different sounds. Our students were great turning the pages and holding the books with minimal adult support. Once again, our P.E session this week focussed on practising our skills using the steps safely. Green Class students keep working hard on this target and they are definitely getting better and better every week. During our Sensology session, the children enjoyed exploring the mango and they were brilliant at playing the xylophone and listening to the quiet and loud noises that they were making.





News from Spring Cluster

The most exciting activity this week was definitely joining the 'Soundabout & Communication' session that took place in the Big Hall on Wednesday. The children loved listening to Felicity and Sue singing and playing the guitar under the beautiful gazebo that they had decorated for our students. We had a lot of fun playing with some exciting musical instruments and exploring all the different prompts and materials during the session. Green Class had a great time with Music Steve on Thursday morning. They enjoyed him counting them while singing a lovely numeracy song. Our spring trip is coming this Monday and we are all looking forward to having a lot of fun at Millets Farm and exploring the place. Hopefully the sunshine will be there for Green Class on the day.



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 another busy week in Yellow class. All of the children enjoyed doing their hand function work and they were all happy to touch and squeeze the mushy peas before doing super mark making.



We have seen excellent anticipation during our sensory story "We're going on a bear hunt" and all of the children are now happy to touch the jelly (for the thick oozy mud) and to either play or touch the large drum. The children have been enjoying our sensory cooking sessions. We play the Great British Bake Off theme tune, pop on our aprons and use our senses to explore a variety of ingredients such as yoghurt, honey, strawberries and cheese.

We were all so proud of Mia when she did super high kneeling at a table in order to get to the shapes and just before that she recognised that a cardigan that was on her chair didn't belong to her so she took it off the chair and brought it over to me-how amazing.



On Wednesday afternoon, we were all so excited to have a visit from Soundabout. The children were captivated. They loved listening to lots of different birds as well as choosing which instrument they would like to play. The children responded really well to the "name song" and to the different tempos. The session finished with us all around a camp "fire" listening to Felicity playing the guitar. The lights and the gentle strumming of the guitar transfixed all the children. Enjoy the photos.



News from Spring Cluster



Have a great weekend,

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



News from Summer Cluster

Pink Class

Pink class have had a lovely creative week. We are continuing to enjoy our dance sessions, as well as our music with Steve. We especially like having a go with Steve's guitar. There has also been great communication during our Resonance board sessions.

This week has been extra special in that we had a visit from Soundabout which we all thoroughly engaged in and enjoyed. We hope you like some of the photographs we took.

In addition to all of these activities we have had lots of messy fun painting on foil during our Art session. Our sensory story this week and next is 'An Italian adventure' and we are enjoying listening to Italian opera music and exploring the different areas of Italy. So far we have tried splashing in water like the gondolas in Venice, explored pasta and smelt the coffee imagining we are in a cafe in Rome and we all enjoyed trying to push over the leaning tower of Pisa. We look forward to exploring Florence and Milan next.

Swimming is continuing to be a great success for us all. Well done to Yujan who achieved his 5 metres swimming certificate this week.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.



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



News from Summer Cluster

Blue Class

This week sees us almost at the end of term and as part of this we will be visiting the bowling alley in Oxford next week instead of going to OXSRAD and this will be a good opportunity for our cluster to socialise in a sports setting which has worked well in the past.

We have continued to work around weights during our cooking sessions and are making some lovely treats to take home for Mother's day along with cards.

The good weather has given us chances to move our learning outside and Music Steve ran his session outside on Thursday which was lovely.

On Wednesday our allotment group did a great job completing tasks to help out Richard and manage the site which runs around the year and is a nice place to visit along with being open to the public on Wednesday's. Feel free to visit and you can also buy their organic fruit and vegetables.





News from Summer Cluster

Purple Class

Purple Class have had another busy week! Harry and Sam started the week with a trip over to Fitzwaryn school to find out about the Prince William award. Both boys took part in a selection of team games some involving blind folds and a lot of trust in your team members.

Enterprise with our Fitzwaryn friends this week focussed on planting beautiful hanging baskets which we are going to raffle so please let us know if you would like a ticket 25p or a strip £1.00. The lucky winners will be picked next Friday and baskets sent home.

Students have focused on a rather special day happening this weekend, creating cards and preparing gifts. We decided to concentrate on spring flowers for our cards as there are an abundance of daffodils along the verges. We have also been thinking about our new project for after the Easter break – our very own Purple ONO Band! We have been listening to different versions of IMAGINE and will attempt our very own version.

A very exciting day for William and Matthew on Wednesday as they were lucky enough to be invited on the London trip with Fitzwaryn to practise their travel training skills via train and underground, see the sights, enjoy a boat trip down the Thames and choose lunch from the market. They took some fabulous photos of their trip to share with the class so we know what to expect if we plan our own special trip to the capital.





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

Our most exciting event this week was our visit to the skate park on Tuesday. We walked there and back with our scooters, and then had time to explore the park and go up and down the ramps. Katherine had a go too and was much more scared than the children! We all had a brilliant time and think it would be great to repeat this trip next term.

On Wednesday we had two more great opportunities – Soundabout came to school and did music workshops in a beautifully-decorated tent in the hall which Ceri and Eleonora were able to participate in, both singing and playing instruments. Meanwhile, the rest of the class went to Trinity Church to visit their interactive Experience Easter displays – little role-play areas set up to represent different parts of the Easter story. There was a lot of discussion with the children about the emotions evoked by different parts of the story, and how we feel at different points in our lives. Everyone was so engaged and well-behaved that we were told the other primary schools going will have a tough act to follow!

Back at school, we have been looking at sorting objects in maths, and then re-sorting to fit different criteria. Some of us have even been learning to use a 2- or 3- circle Venn diagram to sort within overlapping categories. In literacy we have begun writing up our fact files on some of our favourite sports stars. In art we have come to the end of using clay, and have a collection of items which we will paint all together next week. (We also hope your mothers' day cards made it safely home!)

Finally, we hope to see many of you next Wednesday afternoon to share a cluster assembly with us and view some of your child's achievements from this term.

Katherine, Julie, Nicola, and Sarah





News from Autumn Cluster





News from Autumn Cluster





News from Autumn Cluster

Gold Class

Happy Friday All. I trust you've enjoyed the arrival of... summer? We've certainly been enjoying the good weather and sunshine here in Gold Class and have even scraped together time at the end of a couple of school-days to spend fifteen minutes extra on the field playing or engaging with teambuilding challenges.



In literacy this week we have evaluated and improved a factual text, reminding ourselves about capital letters, full stops and other punctuation such as commas in lists. Through this, we also discussed and explored the difference between fact and opinion, the latter of which is banned in factual writing!

As we mentioned last week, we have been exploring fractions of amounts in maths this week. This has proved to be a tricky topic for pupils but we have supported it with visual and physical resources.

Pupils split an appropriate amount of cubes into the different segments of a circle representing a fraction and found the answer to these questions accordingly.



In D&T this week we have created a healthier pasta option with herbs, veg, tinned tomatoes and tuna. Pupils enjoyed trying this back in class while it was still warm.

On Wednesday we were fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to visit Trinity Church in Abingdon where we took part in their 'Easter Experience', exploring the story of Easter in the Christian Faith. We followed this up with some work in school and will be comparing Easter to other famous celebrations from different religions in our lessons next week.

With just one week until the Easter holiday, it promises to be pretty action packed.

Have a great weekend and we will see you on Monday,

Richard, Teresa, Julie, Marie, Helen, Sian, Laura and Lorraine!

~ The Gold Class Crew



News from Autumn Cluster

Homework

Please explore the concept of fact and opinion with your child as this proved to be tricky for several pupils this week. Challenge them to interpret between examples of both and then create their own fact and opinion statements. Please promote fluency with the basic mathematical language for fractions in different scenarios - particularly for halves, thirds and quarters. You might for example want to fairly lay some coins out on a table, work together to find their total worth and then split the amount into two fair halves. This could be made simpler by ignoring money and splitting objects fairly, or more complex by using a mix of coinage.





News from Winter Cluster

Silver Class

We've been incredibly Spring themed this week and have focused lots on our topic, Let's Explore. At the start of the term we planted seeds so we've been watering them and watching them grow but sadly only three out of the nine plants made it to the end of the term (some may have received too much watering). We've been making some fluffy spring lambs and adding to our butterfly art collection. We hope you enjoy your beautiful mother's day cards, they were very lovingly crafted.

We are looking forward to our trip to Snakes and Ladders on Wednesday and hope to see some of you there.



Happy Mother's Day to all you hard working ladies, you deserve to be spoilt this weekend,

Emily, Niki, Jill, Jimena and Annie



News from Winter Cluster

White Class

We had a visit from Soundabout this week. A fantastic sensory experience with beautiful sounds to join in with. The wafting fans were great fun and the tweeting birds were fascinating.



The children were also fascinated by the slideshow of themselves and their classmates. This is part of our topic about growing and the children were very good at guessing who was who by looking at pictures of themselves and their classmates when they were much younger.

Some of the children have used informal methods for measuring by drawing round one another and then measuring the outlines with string. Everyone is tall, but some children are taller. We have one child who is the tallest! Other children got busy measuring our rapidly growing sunflower plants with small cubes and then recording the results by writing the number of cubes down. Other children have focused on their numbers this week and have enjoyed throwing and counting balls and cubes.





News from Winter Cluster

It is very impressive to see the children improving their spreading and cutting skills in Cooking/Food Exploration. They followed written and pictorial instructions to make a jam sandwich. The most impressive thing of all though was the fact that the children finished making their sandwich before having a taste!



The child made a colourful flower garden this week in our Art lesson. A simple idea that has added a touch of Spring to the classroom. We are also getting ready for Sunday with a surprise for all the mums. Shhhhhhh.



One of our highlights is swimming in the pool on Thursdays. Here we are, getting better and better at moving through the water, as well as having a good splash.



More and more of the children's learning is taking place outside in our garden now that the weather seems to be getting sunnier and warmer. We'll see if we can get some outdoor pictures for next week of the children playing and learning.

From Jane, Zoe, Pauline and Lynette in White Class

Community Links

Wantage Museum asked if we could share information about the following events with you:



Alfie Meets

Mondays 28 Jan, 25 Feb, 25

March, 29 April, 27 May & 24 June

10.30am - 11.15am

Come and join Alfie Bear as he meets different objects and people from Wantage past and present.

This is an under 5's group aimed at children aged 3-5 years but all ages welcome.

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Spaces are limited

Community Links



GORGEIOUS GEORGIANS

TUESDAY 9 APRIL 10AM - 3PM

Meet historical figures from Georgian times and find out all about life back then. Enjoy gallery crafts and activities. Free admission but donations welcomed. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Vale & Downland Museum

Church Street, Wantage OX12 8BL

T 01235 771447

E vdmtourism@gmail.com

Open Monday-Saturday 9.30am - 4pm



Vale &
Downland
Museum
Wantage