

**14<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

Dear Parents and Carers

Last Saturday was the Big Kingfisher Picnic in our field. We were really lucky with the weather, the rain held off and allowed us all to have fun. The music was fantastic, as was the BBQ, cake and sweet stall. The bouncy Castle had to be erected in the hall but that didn't stop the fun. Thankyou to the PFSA and other parents and staff who supported the event by sending in items for the raffle as well as cakes for the stall. The PFSA have raised in excess of £1200. They won't have a final figure until all expenses have been accounted for. Thanks again to our wonderful PFSA for supporting us here at Kingfisher. Thank you to all those who came to the event and we look forward to the next extravaganza.



TrinityLearning is one of the charities that are being supported at Waitrose this month. TrinityLearning support us in numerous ways, through their volunteers singing with our pupils as well as supporting the development of our sensory garden. If you could consider donating your token in here, it will be much appreciated.

Despite the winter like weather, our pupils have still managed to get out and about the The Cotswold Wildlife Park as well as all the usual activities such as shopping and walking.

### **Change to next year's May Day Bank Holiday.**

The Government have made the decision that the early **May Bank Holiday in 2020** will not be on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May, but will be moved to **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May**. The date has been moved back by four days for the whole of the UK to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day. The dates have been amended on the school website.

### **Dates for your Diary**

**Friday 28th June:** Sports Day time TBC

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July** Parent Consultation Day **13.00-18.00**

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

Another great week has gone quickly for Green Class. The children have been working hard especially on their physical development targets during this week.

In our P.E. session on Monday afternoon, our students had a lot of fun practising their balance skills by rolling forward and backward on the big 'bouncy balls'. The children showed great enthusiasm and they all had big smiles on their faces during the session. A special day is coming ahead this weekend and Green Class students were very happy to make some beautiful cards for their loved ones. The children have been looking at photos of familiar adults that have specific meaning to them, and their responses have been extremely lovely to witness. In line with our Art activities this week, the children have also been comparing big and small wellington boots and making some fantastic choices on coloured paint that they have wanted to use.

Our 'Good morning and Good afternoon' sessions continue to be very successful for Green Class and it's great to see our children responding so well and interacting with familiar members of staff and their peers so beautifully. Our students are amazing at vocalising during the sessions and initiating interactions with their friends. The children do great choosing between the two or three musical instruments that we use for our sessions and they are all brilliant at playing with them and making lots of different sounds.

Green Class had a very messy and exciting 'Sensory cooking' session on Friday morning this week. We loved 'dropping' all the different ingredients on the shiny foil and listening to the sound they make as they go on it. The children loved exploring the soft texture of the custard and they were great at choosing which other ingredients to add in it. They particularly enjoyed smelling and then spreading the cinnamon from 'up high' and then adding some berries, grapes and strawberries as well. Tasting was definitely our favourite part of the activity.





## News from Spring Cluster



Have a great weekend and we are looking forward to seeing you on Monday.

*Anna, Clare, Jackie, Jo, Maria C, Pauline and Sue*





## Yellow Class

We have certainly had another very busy week in Yellow class. The children celebrated Her Majesty's birthday this week by exploring lots of warm red, white and blue coloured gloop. They then went on to do lovely mark making in the gloop using their hands as well as a drum beater-well done.



In sensology we explored things associated with a fun afternoon tea by smelling lemon tea, looking at lights, reaching for bubbles and tasting strawberry jam. Our photos show Sienna doing lovely looking at the light and Ada giggling when she saw the bubbles!





We are so proud of Matthew who managed to swim 5 metres on his back. Matthew was thrilled to receive his certificate and badge. Also during our wonderful singing session with Music Steve, Habibou strummed the guitar both upwards and downwards. Well done boys!



In the Ball Pool the children worked hard on their physio targets and looked at different shapes and colours. One of the children loved it so much that he decided to hide under the balls. Can you guess who it is?



Finally the children have been working very hard with their art activities this week. They have been doing lots of good sensory exploration, choosing, finger painting, sprinkling and gluing.

All this hard work was to create a special surprise for their dads to have on Sunday! Photos to follow next week.

Have a great weekend,

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



# News from Summer Cluster

## Pink Class



We started the week with our most active Atmospherics Session to date. As usual we had our sequence of music and multi sensory stimulus. We also all get out of our chairs for Atmospherics. Some students enjoy the session on mats, whilst some like to incorporate their individual Physiotherapy into the session- the wedge being a particularly popular choice. It is always a popular session and a great way to start our week together and this week was no exception especially when a couple of students took it upon themselves to roll around the classroom.



We have had enjoyed art this week too. Our art session usually focus on the sensory experience of the materials we are working with but this week we have turned our attention to an end product. The students all really engaged making colour choice through eye pointing or reaching out. We hope that you like the final results.

The Eye Gaze has been the highlight this week for lots of the students. We have been using it to make choices, play cause and effect games, colour in and make music. We hope everyone has a good weekend-fingers crossed for some better weather.

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





# News from Summer Cluster

## Blue Class

This week in Blue Class we have dealt really well with the change of weather which has meant we have had to differ our schedules slightly.

We've had a lovely time with Music Steve which proved to be really interactive and calming for the students involved who played a variety of instruments that she had chosen.

We also had changes at OXSRAD and some of our students took part in gym routines with their key workers. One student managed to pedal a whopping 8.3 miles using an interactive spinning program!

Next week things will be back to normal with horse riding being back on along with the allotment and students will continue with their other academic lessons also.





# News from Summer Cluster

## Purple Class

Another busy week for Purple!! Starting Monday with sharing our news, some individual target work and afternoon swim. Tuesday off to Fitwaryn again for Enterprise. Josh stayed at school to work on targets with Leah and Adam went for an extra swim. We continued talking about and looking at signs, symbols and labels in the environment in the afternoon and continued to practise for our 'Imagine' project. Students are really starting to remember more and more words and feeling more confident regards performing in front of others. Thank you to William and Matthew who have been excellent role models!

Half the class went on a trip to Cotswold Life Park Wednesday and had a great time! William and Matthew attended also but on this occasion as members of staff! They joined Orange Class to support with the younger students. I have had excellent feedback about how well they did and we are all super proud of them – well done guys! Sam, Chan, Josh and Lewis worked on individual tasks and went on a road safety walk. They will be going on their special trip on Monday! In the afternoon we practised for Imagine and had some time doing chosen activities in class.

We were due to practise for sports day at OXSRAD but alas the rain came down so some of us went in the gym whilst others spent time in the Sensory Room. In the afternoon Sam, Harry and Josh shopped at Tesco's for Friday's lunch chosen by Sam – Taco's. Brandon achieved his 5 stars for learning all the words to Imagine and so went of to the charity shop to buy a DVD. Students enjoyed jamming along to 'Music with Steve'.

Cooking lunch Friday morning and a relaxed afternoon (after completing our life skills and clearing up!). Matthew W attended his first transition visit at Oxford College!

Happy weekend everyone – hope the rain stops!

Purple Class – *Leah, Mary, Sean, Laura and Sian*







# News from Summer Cluster





# News from Autumn Cluster

## Orange Class

Orange Class have had another busy week and have continued to improve so much with their independence and willingness to have a go at new things.

The highlight was definitely the trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park. The children were so well behaved and made us all really proud. They loved looking at all the animals.....but the favourite was definitely the penguins. We especially loved watching them being fed lots of fish for their lunch. Another highlight was the train trip, where we loved spotting all the different animals, especially the rhinos and zebras.

We have continued looking at rainforests this week. We continued to enjoy using the plastic animals but this week were building homes for them. In topic we continued our work on thinking about what we would find in the rainforest and made I see and I cannot see sentences about the rainforest,

In literacy we are still looking at rainforest poetry. This week we made sentences using symbols, writing or typing to say what we can see or hear in the rainforest.

We also all enjoyed painting with water colours in art. This week we added a road to our sky background from last week. We have all been thinking carefully about what paintbrush to use and how to use this more carefully. In ICT we practised using online programs for learning. We enjoyed designing our own animals using the 'Switch zoo' program.







# News from Autumn Cluster



## Homework ideas:

- Continue to encourage your child to help with using money i.e. paying at the shop, for the bus etc.
- Practise mark making activities in role play like writing shopping lists, receipts and taking orders.
- Bug hunts in the garden and in the local area.

Hope you all have a fantastic weekend!

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





# News from Autumn Cluster

## Red Class

In maths this week we have continued to work on money and our coin recognition skills. We put these skills to real-life practice this week when our walking group took us to Poundland! Everyone found this very exciting and we enjoyed exploring the shop and choosing one thing each to purchase. (We had a talk before we went out about how to recognise which things now cost more than one pound!) After this we again travelled back to school on the 35 bus. Everyone is getting very good at finding the right coins in their purses and paying for the bus ticket.

Back at school, we have continued to explore the rainforest. In topic we have looked at different rainforest animals and thought about how they are adapted for the part of the rainforest in which they live. In literacy we have been writing poems about the rainforest using all of our senses to describe what we can see, hear, smell, touch and taste.

*Katherine, Julie, Nicola, and Sarah*







# News from Autumn Cluster





# News from Autumn Cluster

## Gold Class

A very happy Friday to you all, we trust you've had a fantastic week. Gold Class have really knuckled down this week and have cracked on despite the arrival of an early winter!

In literacy we have continued our work on poetry. We wrote about the rainforest, thinking about our five senses and have created some marvellous pieces of literacy using ambitious vocabulary from words mats. We'll be sure to put them up on the wall so keep a look out next time you get the opportunity to pop down to class!

In maths we have continued working on money and have been applying our understanding of different operations to this context. Some of us for example, have been finding change for a £7 item from a £10 note or solving  $£5 + £3$ , where others have



been multiplying (or buying 'lots' of) items worth a mix of pounds and pence e.g.  $3 \times £2.30$ .



In Art and ICT we have progressed on our painting and computer navigation work and swimming has proven to be a real success this week with some pupils even learning alternate breathing for their front crawl! In SRE we have spoken to some of the older pupils in class thinking about why a person might want to (...or not want to) have a baby.

Tennis was brilliant as ever this week as we continued to develop racquet skills on our own and over the net with a partner. In Topic we engaged with a research task based upon 'habitats and animal adaptation' and even learnt how to tell the difference between a Bactrian and Dromedary camel!

We look forwards to continuing to work with Gold Class students next week and wish you a great weekend.

~ *The Gold Class Crew*





# News from Autumn Cluster

## Homework

It would be great this week if you could help continue our work on connecting the four operations (+-x÷) with money. You might ask your child to help you work out how much 3 boxes of cereal is going to set you back or how much a chocolate bar and a packet of crisps are going to cost altogether. It would also be very helpful if you could spend some time investigating different animals and discussing how they are suited/adapted to survive in their habitat. Identify key features on the animal such as fins/fur and ask how these are of benefit.

*Richard, Teresa, Julie, Marie, Helen, Sian and Lorraine G!*



# News from Winter Cluster

## Silver Class

We had a fantastic day out at Cotswold Wildlife Park this week. Luckily, the animals and us didn't get rained on so they were all out of their enclosures for us to see. We enjoyed walking around the animal enclosures in the morning, and watched the penguins have their breakfast, then after lunch we petted the goats and played in the adventure park. A tortoise came up to say hello to us and the monkeys put on a noisy show.



A big thank you to the parents that helped us take the children on the Cotswold trip. We wouldn't have been able to make it without you and we hope you enjoyed your day out with us as much as we did,

*Emily, Niki, Jill, Jimena and Annie*



# News from Winter Cluster

## White Class

It's been a bit of a tricky week because of the rain and having to be stuck indoors so much! We've certainly made the most of our other spaces, such as the ball pool and Small Hall for Sensory Circuit. The children are coping very well with being cooped up but we have still been going into the garden for short stretches, despite the rain.



The children are enjoying mark making very much and have been using different kinds of pens, pencils and crayons. Many of the children are asking to do more painting and they are showing fantastic improvements in their control of brushes and rollers.

In Cooking this week, the children made fruit punch and had to carefully pour in water and juice. They had to decide if they needed more water or had enough. Then, they had fun peeling, cutting and putting in some fresh fruit and cucumber. Most of the children had a go licking the ingredients to see if they liked the taste.

*Oh! We do like to be beside the seaside* is our sensory story this week. The children loved exploring cold wet sand and very smelly seaweed. They had a go rubbing in their own sun cream and putting on sun hats. What a shame that it was pouring down that day!

Some of the children went to the Cotswold Wildlife Park, along with other classes. They got a lot out of the trip by exploring the different kinds of animals. They loved sitting together for their lunch and travelling in the mini bus. We were lucky as it decided not to rain that day.

Have a great weekend.

*From Jane, Zoe, Pauline and Lynette*







## Connecting Through Play cic DIR/Floortime® Training



**Monday 1st July 2019  
7-8.30pm**

Florence Park Community Centre  
Cornwallis Rd, Oxford OX4 3NH

**Free entry**

### **DIRFloortime Short Introduction**

The Developmental, Individual-Differences, Relationship-Based (DIR) model promotes improved emotional development and overall mental health in all children and adults, including those with autism. This short introduction covers the theoretical framework and scientific evidence of the DIR model and Floortime approach.

#### **Presenters:**

**Denise Wilson** MSc

Occupational Therapist, Neurodevelopmental Therapist,  
Play Therapist and International DIRFloortime Training Leader

**Alison Baker**

DIRFloortime and Self-Reg Practitioner

To find out about the next DIRFloortime courses from Connecting Through Play cic visit, [www.connectingthroughplay.org/dir-floortime-training/](http://www.connectingthroughplay.org/dir-floortime-training/)