



Kingfisher Newsletter

8th April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

The highlight of this term has to be the fact we could invite parents and carers into school for the parent consultation evening. We took the opportunity during the evening to hold our first information stalls where we showcased a number of our initiatives and teaching methods. We had Internet Safety, Zones of Regulation, Phonics, Maths and Healthy Eating stalls. Freya from Gold Class was lucky to win the 'free' raffle of a fruit basket. Liz was also in attendance to support families and offer guidance as necessary. Our next event is the first Friday after the Easter Holidays when we will celebrate St George's Day and Autism Awareness month. We are hoping to repeat our stalls at this event too, you will have had a separate letter inviting you to this event

We will be holding a Careers Fayre in conjunction with Fitzwaryn School in May, you will be receiving a flyer with the information soon. You are more than welcome to attend either, whichever is best for you, or both if you so wish.

Please remember there are sessions for Swings and Smiles available in the Northcourt Centre in Abingdon during the Easter Break on 14th and 22nd April. This is for all with young people with SEN and their families. Please email office@swingsandsmiles.co.uk to book your place. Liz, our Family Advocate will be at both sessions.

Having secured planning permission, we are in the final stages ready to start our new build at the front of the school. We are hoping that the ground works will start after the Easter Break, however there will be some remedial drain works carried out over the holidays. Parking will be extremely tight during this process so please be mindful of our neighbours if you are attending any on site meetings.

We have held many fundraising events this last term, here is a breakdown of all the monies raised. Thank you so much for all your support.

Ukraine £340.20, Red Nose Day and Downs Syndrome £94.10



Dear Parents and Carers

Dates for your Diary Please take another look at our term dates to ensure you are aware of the additional days holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Monday 6th June.
[Kingfisher School - Term Dates](#)

Monday 25th April

Return to school

Friday 29th April 2022

We are very excited to be celebrating both St. George's Day and Autism Awareness Month. Parents and Carers will be invited to join our celebrations from 10am. We will have music, a raffle, an array of games and refreshments will be available for you to enjoy.

Wednesday 25th May at Kingfisher and at Fitzwaryn School

Careers Fayre-please see the separate flyer

Friday 10th June 2022

We will be celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee by having a "street party" which you are most welcome to attend from 10am.

Have an amazing Easter Holiday and we look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 25th April.

Best Wishes

Lorraine



Sensory Pathway



Yellow Class

We have had another busy term in Yellow Class. Our class have enjoyed being able to participate in lots of Spring-themed activities. The children enjoyed exploring soil and we discovered that we have a very green-fingered group of children in Yellow Class. The children planted courgette and carrot seeds and have keenly watered the seeds on a weekly basis. They have all liked observing how the seeds have been growing from week to week.

Yellow Class have eagerly engaged with finger painting sessions, which involved using lots of bright Spring colours. This was subsequently incorporated into our Art session where the children selected their two favourite colours from the exploration to make beautiful handprints, which were then excitingly made into butterfly shapes.

The sensory garden has proven very popular with Yellow Class. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the effects of Spring in the sensory garden and liked collecting leaves, that were later used for a fun Art session, where the children were able to make leaf prints using paint. The good weather that we experienced over the past term enabled us to spend more time outdoors. The children loved having the opportunity to cycle with staff around the large field. This activity resulted in lots of smiles and proved itself to be a firm favourite with Yellow Class pupils.

Our Sensory story “I See Spring”, has prompted some excellent vocalising. All of the children were really engaged during our Sensory Story sessions. They all loved pressing the switch in order to hear the bird song and they all liked being beneath the transparent umbrella as it rained as well as the squirrels running up and down the trees.

Sensory cooking sessions continued to serve as a weekly highlight with Yellow Class pupils. The mixer was operated via the switch and many of the pupils were eager to press the switch to activate the mixer. Some of the children observed the mixer with fascination as they held it in their hands and felt it vibrating.

It has been a pleasure to teach Yellow Class for the last six months. The Yellow Class team would like to wish you all a brilliant Easter break and Gal will be returning to teach Yellow Class after the Easter holidays.

Siobhan, Kerry-Ann, Emma, Katia and Sally



Green Class

This term our Topic has been Spring, we have loved exploring and have enjoyed spending of time outside. Our sensory story has of course been all about spring, we have been looking at the flowers and nature that comes out this time of year. We have also been listening out for animal sounds that we might hear outside such as birds, bumble bees and frogs splashing in the pond.

In both Sensology and Sensory Cooking we have been learning about easter and of course eating lots of chocolate. In Sensology we have been exploring different tactile easter eggs with things hidden inside, the glittery ones are our favorites. In Sensory cooking we explore 5 ingredients with our 5 senses, this term we have been making chocolate orange easter nests. We crush the Weetabix with our hands and squeeze oranges in as well, we mix it all together with the chocolate and of course tasting some as we go.

In Art we have been practicing lots of different skills including sticking. We have been continuing our easter and spring theme and been sticking fluff onto bunny rabbits and brightly coloured paper onto easter eggs.

Alicia, Kim, Amanda, Jackie, Julia, Clare, Felicity and Tracy



Pink Class

Pink class have had lots of fun this term and been very engaged exploring our topic about having 'A Spring in our Step' and using our senses to explore the wonderful season of 'Spring' outdoors around our school and when out and about. There has been some lovely independent walking to areas such as our school sensory garden, where we have based our 'sensology' sessions some weeks and our sensory story 'Spring Sensory Trail'. In our sensory garden and when out and about we listened to birds in the trees, the wind rustling through the tree branches amongst other sounds and looked closely at the spring flowers growing in abundance, enjoying the wonderful smells of the flowers and herbs growing and tasting the rosemary and mint, indicating if we liked something or not through our vocalisations and facial expressions.

Some of us have enjoyed shopping in the community and finding items in the supermarket to buy using symbols and then handing over money at the counter to purchase the items to use in our cookery sessions at school. We have gained skills in using a topic board to choose what we would like from the café and used our communication skills to purchase the items of our choice at the counter with adult support. As part of our community experience some of us have also enjoyed attending wheels4all at Horspath once a week with Purple class, which we really enjoy attending.

We have been focusing a lot on Zones of Regulation and our feelings and this has been emphasised through our topic story this term, where we have been thinking about what makes us feel happy and how it is ok to sometimes feel sad using symbols and topic emotion boards and music tassels. We all had different things which cause us to feel happy, such as the sound of pouring water, bubbles, coloured lights, playing with balls, music, parachute games, messy play and certain food items. We have all done extremely well with expressing our feelings. During our morning communication sessions we have been expressing how we our feeling by reaching out for or looking at the happy or sad emotion symbol, or using TASSELS to express our emotions.

As part of our hand function maths sessions we have all demonstrated that we are very good at turn taking and have especially enjoyed games such as skittles and balloon tennis. There is lots of anticipation by everyone and smiles and happy vocalisations have filled the classroom. As part of our hand warm up we enjoy making shapes with playdough.



Pink Class-continued

Our phonics sessions have been based around animal sounds and the song 'Old MacDonald had a Farm'. We are very good at identifying the animals by the sound they make and some of us have done well imitating the sounds as well.

In Art we have been exploring and making choices from selected resources and tied this activity in with our mark making. Our art activities have included themes such as St David's Day and Easter and we have all worked hard on developing our skills and produced some wonderful artwork which you will see.

As part of our physical development we have all been working hard with our individual programs and making super progress. We have also been making wonderful progress with our individual swimming targets. Dance with Gina has been a great success and we have been showing our emotions and responding to different pieces of music individually. Some of us find pieces of music by artists such as Pavarotti can cause us to slow our movements down completely, engage openly in intensive interaction with a familiar adult or even cry and then can change immediately to smiles and happy vocalisations when an artist such as Prince is played. Our Music with Autism session was a particular favourite this term.

We hope you all have a wonderful Easter holiday and look forward to seeing you next term.

Juliette, Tor, Maria S, Liza, Daniel, Maria J, Sarah, Sue



Core Pathway



Orange Class

We have enjoyed exploring our topic of Healthy Living in Orange Class this term. The children have smelt, touched and tasted a range of fruits and vegetables and have started to make choices, expressing a preference for some items. We have tried lots of different physical activities which can help to keep our bodies fit and healthy. Our learning in class continues to build each child's stamina for learning with the group and for working 1:1 with an adult for short periods of time. The development of communication skills remains at the heart of everything we do.

The children showed great enthusiasm for our sensory story, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, engaging with the props and enjoying the story more and more as they became familiar with it. The caterpillar in the story inspired some of our children to try fruit at snack time, establishing some good habits that we hope will continue. The story also gave us opportunities to practice recognising colours and the days of the week, as well as counting items accurately. The other book we shared, *Which Food Will You Choose?*, started simple discussions about the foods that the children liked and disliked. They were very motivated to add items to their 'lunchbox' as we read the next part of the story each day. Our cooking activities have supported the topic work, encouraging children to experience different foods with their senses. Children decide for themselves whether they would like to taste the foods or not.

Our learning in Maths has combined time spent as a whole class sharing counting and number songs, with additional 1:1 activities focusing on each child's individual targets. The children also had fun learning at their own pace through exploratory activities, sensory/container play and role play in the kitchen or shop.

Finally, we have made the most of having some visitors back in school. The Panathlon session linked in with our topic work and the children enjoyed working alongside children from another class. They also appreciated musical sessions from Radley School and Music for Autism, joining in with singing and musical instruments. Happy Easter from us all in Orange Class!

Rachael, Caitlín, Beccie, Emily, Tracy and Charlotte.



Red Class

One of the children's favourite things this term has been our special day to think about people in the Ukraine. They were very interested in what has been happening in the Ukraine and had lots of questions about the fighting and the children and our safety in England. So when they found out that we were having a special day to raise funds and think about the Ukrainians and how tricky it is for them at the moment they were very pleased. There were lots of good suggestions about making flags to sell and special cakes with yellow and blue icing for us to eat. The best idea was Henry's, he suggested that we had a game of 'Pass the Parcel' with blue and yellow wrappers. He and David helped Laura to make a fantastic parcel with layers of yellow and blue and little prizes for their friends in every layer. As a class we raised £35.00 for the special day – well done Red Class!

Another activity which the children have thoroughly enjoyed has been 'Comic Relief Bingo'. For a couple of weeks before 'Red Nose Day' we played bingo every afternoon for exciting prizes linked to 'Red Nose Day'. There was great excitement over red noses, deely boppers, bracelets, keyrings and colouring books. The children are getting really good at concentrating and ticking off their numbers without any help. Some of the older children have been keeping an eye on the others who find it tricky and helping them too. This makes me such a proud teacher to see them supporting each other in this way.

The children have been very lucky this term and have been visited by Musicians and singers which they loved and enjoyed.

We have also had external PE coaches to lead a Panathlon session where they have experienced lots of different and interesting PE activities. Red class love a challenge and become very competitive, trying to be the best that they can be and beat each other, working incredibly hard to achieve their goals.

Lorna, Laura, Jo, Sophie and Giovanna



Gold Class

This term our topic has been keeping healthy with a particular focus on exercise. Gold Class have had brilliant PE sessions with Molly learning new skills for football, hockey and netball. Pupils have also taken it in turns to lead the warm-up session with the class and are aware that a warm-up is important to stretch muscles and avoid hurting ourselves. We also had a Penathlon session earlier in the term trying curling and boccia. We have kept fitness diaries for a couple of weeks to record the amount of activity we do each day including weekends. We designed exercise routines that last 5 minutes and include 5 different activities such as star jumps, push ups, lunges, running. We then all tried out the exercise routines on the field, which was fun but exhausting! We even had a few pupils from other classes joining in our exercise routines.

We have learnt a great deal about our bodies in science lessons and are able to name some of the bones and joints. A few pupils can also name a couple of muscles and have made a model of an arm with elastic bands to represent the biceps and triceps muscles so that they could see what happens to the muscles when you straighten and bend the elbow. Pupils have enjoyed building jigsaws to show body parts, putting a skeleton together and have looked at X-rays of bones to try to work out which part of the body we are looking at.

We love cooking in Gold Class, and we made dips and dippers, which was great to practice chopping skills. The guacamole and raita dip was delicious, and Michael (staff) liked it so much that he said would buy it from a shop.

We have been focusing on measuring length and height this term using non-standard units to compare length, estimating and measuring in cm, mm and m and converting units of measure. Pupils have also been developing skills using money, understanding the value of coins and notes, adding up mixed coins and role play for shopping, which they can use when they get out and about. A few pupils having been solving money problems and working out change.

There have been a few special days to celebrate this term including World Book Day, on which pupils and staff brought in a book that they enjoyed to share with the class. We also had a couple of charity events including Red Nose Day and raising money for Ukraine.

Maria, Tess, Esther, Julie, Tina and Sarah



Communication Pathway



Silver Class

We have been very fortunate this term to have been provided with so many exciting extra-curricular experiences. The children really enjoyed listening to the Radley College Music experience and could join in with their own instruments. We listened to the piano, saxophone, singers and violinists. During week 5, we had a 'music for autism' session with a fantastic pianist. We all sat around the piano and sang our favourite songs whilst playing with sensory objects. We all managed to practice our PE skills during the Panathlon which included lots of exciting events. The children took turns to complete the running, throwing, jumping and matching activities.

This term our topic has been 'Keeping Healthy'. Therefore, we have been learning all about healthy foods to eat and how to exercise in different ways to keep our bodies active. During our structured play times the children have been able to ride bikes, trikes and scooters. We have also been using the trampoline and practising taking turns. During science lessons the children have been learning about body awareness. We have been playing Simon says, singing 'heads, shoulders, knees and toes' and singing the 'hokey, cokey' as a class. The children have practiced naming or pointing to parts of their bodies.

As in every term, we have been using our creativity to support our communication development. This term the children made gingerbread men during cooking lessons and followed the visual instructions. The children also made healthy yoghurt and granola bowls whilst choosing toppings and ingredients. One of our favourite lessons was foot painting, the squidgy paint between our toes was cold and slimy! It made a lovely whole class painting as each child was able to add colours of their choosing. The children have been practising shape as part of their maths lessons. The children particularly enjoyed playing the 'shape monster' game. They needed to post the shape through the correct shape monsters mouth and when they got it correct the monster would make a funny noise!

Heather, Brittany, Ellie, Sidney, Rachael, Molly.



White class

Happy Easter everyone!

Our Topic this term has been keeping healthy (exercise). The pupils have loved spending time being active and exploring more forms of exercise. The pupils really enjoyed the exercise machines on the field, the races and spending time on the bikes.

Within Storytime, the pupils enjoyed the Gingerbread Man story, especially the physical props, running just like the Gingerbread man. The pupils also enjoyed experiencing the different types of music in the story Giraffe's can't dance, especially during dance class, waltzing like the warthogs and cha-cha-ing like the chimps. The pupils did well matching symbols from the story, looking at pictures from the story and describing what certain animals were doing.

Within communication sessions, some pupils have been working on discriminating between symbols, understanding what symbols mean, and having meaning behind choosing the correct symbol. Other pupils have been working on turn taking skills, the pupils have been choosing which sword to put in the pop up pirate barrel, and learning to comment on actions, such as 'oh no', 'wow' and 'pop'.

In cooking, we have been cooking and decorating Gingerbread men, choosing our toppings for granola and yoghurt, we focused on Easter related cooking for the last two weeks, making chocolate nests and chocolate fridge cake. The pupils are really doing well, following instructions and choosing which ingredients they want.

We had two music events this term, Music for Autism performed for the school, as well as Radley College. The children enjoyed dancing around the hall with their friends and teachers, it was such a lovely experience.



White Class-continued

In Art, we have been toy, foot and hand printing, some pupils enjoyed the sensory aspect of the lesson, others enjoyed the actions we gave them, e.g. running, walking, stop, go, skip and hop. We also made shakers and bottle top clickers to create instruments, to play along to the story Giraffe's can't dance. We made Easter cards to send home and an Easter wreath using communication boards for the pupils to decide what they would like to decorate with.

We had two music events this term, Music for Autism performed for the school, as well as Radley College. The children enjoyed dancing around the hall with their friends and teachers, it was such a lovely experience.

The children have really enjoyed making Easter cards and signing their name, walking to the post box across the school, listening and responding to stop and go commands and then posting letters to their parents. We have been so pleased and proud of the children's behaviour and road safety in public, they have shown us they are able to listen to instructions in different environments, therefore we are looking at planning other trips to focus on the target; to learn how to be safe in the community.

We hope you and your family enjoyed some of the home learning suggestions, we've seen a few getting involved. If you have any pictures or videos, upload it on evisense, it would be great to see.

Happy Easter!

Jemma, Ali, Lynette, Kia, Leann and Niki



Black Class

Happy Easter everyone! We have had a brilliant half term with lots of achievements, hard work and fun. We celebrated some very important events this half term including pancake day, red nose day and Easter. Our topic this half term was all about keeping healthy and exercising so we have had six very active weeks, although we also learnt about healthy balance by indulging on Easter treats!

In Literacy this half term we explored The Gingerbread Man, Giraffe's Can't Dance and 5 Little Easter Bunnies. We all practiced our writing skills with some of us writing sentences and some of us attempting to trace and draw characters from the stories. Within our comprehension lessons some of us learnt to sequence events from the story, whilst others worked on subject, verb, and object sentences. I must say that the Gingerbread Man was a firm favourite and the children loved joining in with the repetitive nature of the story.

To go with our topic about keeping healthy, we explored healthy foods in our cooking sessions. We focused on tasting new ingredients and choosing what we would like to add to our dishes. We made yoghurt and granola bowls and chose healthy toppings for a gingerbread man. In true Easter spirit we couldn't let the half term slide without making chocolate easter nests.

In Numeracy this half term we had a special focus on shapes, simple calculation, and number. Some of us identified 2D shapes within pictures, whilst some of us went on 3D shape hunts around the school. As part of our calculation sessions, we focused on division in simple terms by sharing out items between different groups. Some of us even managed to make number sentences which was fantastic.



Black Class - continued

Our Topic sessions ran a little differently this half term and we focused on a different physical activity each week. We participated in running races, practiced using the outdoor gym equipment properly and used the bikes on the field. Some of us went to Dance with our wonderful dance teacher Gina, whilst some of us participated in 'movement time' which involved choosing different exercises in a group exercise session. We also had the Penathlon this half term which included curling, hurdles and throwing a variety of different resources.

As part of our Easter explorations we participated in a variety of different Easter activities. We went on easter egg hunts, completed lots of easter craft and participated in a multi- sensory session relating to Easter. We tasted hot cross buns, played instruments along with church choir music, smelt mint sauce and commented our opinions. Lots of children said yuck to the mint sauce! As always a big well done to everyone this half term. We are all very proud of the children's achievements and look forward to a sunnier half term after our break. Our focus will be all about the 'Jubilee' as we approach the big day.

Have a wonderful break everyone with lots of fun and lots of rest!

Katie, Olívia, Amelia, Jennifer, Leann, Sophie



Blue Class

Hello everyone and happy Easter! We've really enjoyed ourselves keeping busy in Blue Class this term as we have focused on our topic 'Keeping Healthy'. As you might have guessed it's been a very active term for us and pupils have loved having the opportunity to get involved with a range of physical activities around school, not least of which has included a Panathlon day and bike riding opportunities around the track on the field. Likewise, P.E. lessons have continued with pupils working on their aim, throwing, rolling and kicking different objects. Whilst we haven't swum every week, when we have had the opportunity to it has continued to be a real success with pupils displaying ever more confidence in the water.

In literacy pupils have very much enjoyed engaging with our sensory stories 'The Gingerbread Man', 'Giraffes Can't Dance' and 'We're going on an Egg Hunt'. It was a particular highlight role-playing Gerald the Giraffe and dancing along to some world music. Phonics has continued as per usual and pupils have had success tackling their new phonemes /ur/, /ow/, /oi/ and /wh/, /ph/, /ew/ respectively.

A highlight in maths this term has been pupils' progress with multiplication. Whilst initially it sounds tricky to tackle, some pupils have accessed multiplication through repeat addition and making groups of amounts e.g. $2+2+2$, three groups of two. Some pupils in class have wowed us with their ability to independently double amounts using physical resources.

Cooking has, as ever, been a hit with our young people who enjoyed making gingerbread men with fruit decorations and healthy yoghurt snacks. Admittedly we strayed off topic indulging in some chocolate easter nests at the end of term but thankfully all evidence was quickly consumed!

Lastly, pupils have also enjoyed art this term. They took part in physical footprint art activities, painting with animals and Easter Crafts, all of which were a hit.

Have a fantastic Easter break and we look forward to seeing you all in the summer term.

Megan, Julie, Teresa, Kim, Sarah and Richard



Transition Pathway



Purple Class

Term 4 has been quite exciting for us all due to the lifting of restrictions and being able to get back to doing some of the exciting things we do. We started the term with having a go at preparing, cooking and tossing a pancake for Shrove Tuesday. Leah gave up crisps for Lent! We shared some favourite stories for World Book Day including Leah's favourite picture book – *The Boat* by Helen Ward.

We had our first visit from Maggie, our very own Careers Advisor who introduced herself and told us a little about the sort of options we might have. Some of the pupils had 1:1 interview's and completed an Action Plan in preparation for leaving school. We also gathered up all the donations for Ukraine from our kind Kingfisher family and a few pupils helped pack and deliver the items to various collection points. We visited Abingdon & Witney College and pupils were very excited to experience the canteen and see all the great spaces there. We celebrated Harry's 18th birthday and Holly's 16th, so once again another excuse to eat cake!

As usual we have continued with our regular weekly activities such as shopping and cooking, Read Write Inc/Phonics and Maths etc. We have enjoyed some lovely outings for our Recreation & Leisure activities and have resumed our visits to OSRAD, this time trying out the gym equipment. The AoPE (*Award of Personal Effectiveness*) hosted a Jacket Potato Café for the staff, which went down extremely well and raised over £30 for the Enterprise funds.

Our topic for the term has been all about maintaining a healthy lifestyle and we have looked at what constitutes a healthy lifestyle and things that are not so good for us. We have thought more about the 5 food groups to maintain a balanced diet and pupils all contributed to the class display. For PSHE, Leanne has also continued our focus on a healthy lifestyle, including mental wellbeing and maintaining a positive mindset. We have thought more about the Zones of Regulation and the kind of things that will help us individually when we are struggling.

Pupils followed instructions to create a beautiful Mother's Day card and made some decorated biscuits for their wonderful mums. Towards the last part of term, we enjoyed a special end of term bowling trip which the pupils voted for. Randalph, our helper from Radley College came too! We have thought about Easter and have looked at the events from Palm Sunday leading up to Easter Sunday. We have prepared some cards and gifts to celebrate this special time of year with our families.

Finally, we finished the term with an exciting and exclusive visit to Williams F1 Team Headquarters to experience the world of work and get up close to the amazing race cars. How lucky are we!

Happy Easter everyone! *Purple Class – Leah, Mary, Nicola, Gill, Sian, & Julie*

