



Kingfisher Newsletter

27th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been an exciting few weeks at Kingfisher School, we started the term with our St Georges Day celebration. Although the weather wasn't as nice as we had hoped, we all had lots of fun. Each Class did their own activities for everyone to join in with. I had my first ever go at Aunt Sally under the direction of Freya. The May Pole dancing proved to be such a hit, we have continued to use it and it will be in place again for our Jubilee Street Party on June 10th.

Red Class re-enacted St George and the Dragon, with all pupils taking an active part in the performance. Charlie's dad, Simon, came in and took many wonderful photos of the day and you will find them on our website here. [Kingfisher School - St George's Day 2022](#). The pupils worked really hard to perfect their lines and this showed in the performance.



On Wednesday we had the opportunity to host our 'Moving into Adulthood' event, where a number of different providers and support services were in school to provide guidance and support for the next steps for our pupils at Kingfisher. Lots of parents and some pupils came to the evening, and some of our older pupils took an active part in setting up the event, as well as serving refreshments and signing parents and pupils in. I was even asked to show my ID to gain entry!



Dear Parents and Carers

Dates for your Diary

Message from Abingdon Town Council

Abingdon Town Council will celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a series of events over several days next week and we would be grateful if you could include details in your weekly newsletter to families attending your school as we hope to welcome as many local residents as we can.

The event will run on Thursday, Friday and Saturday next week and will include music, performances by local groups, activities and entertainers. There will be community groups, food and two bars, plus a funfair and bouncy castles on Saturday.

The whole event will be free so that everyone can come along. More details can be found at <https://www.abingdon.gov.uk/platinum-jubilee-2022>.

Monday 6th June 2022

Additional Bank Holiday on Lieu of Jubilee Day

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 10:30-11:30. Please be aware there is no opportunity to take your child home with you after this.

Wednesday 6th July

Parent Consultation Evening

Tuesday 19th July 2022

Last Day of Term 2pm Finish

Have a great half Term

Lorraine



Sensory Pathway



Yellow Class

What a beautiful term for Yellow Class. This term we have celebrated and worked on the topic of the Jubilee. We have really enjoyed all our art activities but making bunting outdoors and creating some amazing crowns was definitely everyone's favourite. Every student has shown incredible skills at using the supported scissors when creating the bunting.

This term we also invited parents and we all gathered together to celebrate Saint George's Day. A beautiful day full of activities, tea, cakes and may pole dance. Yellow Class together with Green and Pink have started celebrating assemblies on Tuesday afternoons to value and praise everyone's work across the pathway and this term's stars of the week have been Francesca, Alessandra and Ada.

With the beautiful weather we have had this term Yellow class has also benefited from enjoying the outdoors more and using our incredible bikes. We have also created some beautiful sensory activity tables in which every student has had the opportunity to explore different textures, music instruments, technologies and sensory books. In the photos we can see Francesca doing incredible at her numbers and Roman doing some amazing standing to read one of his favourite books.

Have a lovely half term!

Galder, Emma, Kerry Ann, Sally, Katia and Verity



Green Class

Our Topic this term has been The Jubilee. Through out this term we have been getting ready for the Jubilee by celebrating and partying.

Our Sensory Story this term has been 'You must bring a hat' by Simon Philip, in this Story we have been invited to a party. However, in order to get into this party, you must be wearing a hat, glasses and have a badger that can play the piano. We have had lots of fun with this story playing the piano, trying on silly hats and glasses.

In Sensory cooking we have been making Trifle ready for the Jubilee Party. In our Trifle we have custard, Jelly, meringue, cream and fruit. We have lots of fun tasting all of the different ingredients, our favorites are ingredients that we can splash and make lots of mess with.

We have been working hard in our swimming lessons this term. We have been walking whilst in the pool, floating on our backs and practicing kicking our legs.

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



Pink Class

This has been a short but busy term. It was lovely to see parents back in school again for the St George's Day celebrations. The May Pole dancing was a really highlight and we hope to enjoy this more next term. We've really enjoyed our St George and Jubilee themed learning. We have made lots of St George's themed art creating big flags for our celebration and bunting ready for the Jubilee. Our efforts will be on sale during our Jubilee celebrations after half term. We have also been enjoying the story of St George told in a multi sensory way. The students particularly enjoyed getting wet during the part of the story where St George fights the dragon in the lake.

As always choice making has been a big part of the term. As part of this terms massage story the students have had a choice between versions of the national anthem or the ants go marching song. Everyone, every time choose the ants go marching when offered the choice. Wonderful consistent communication from Pink Class. Action songs have been a focus during our phonics and music sessions this term. Another clear preference in terms of songs has been the Grand old Duke of York with everyone anticipating or independently going through all the ups and downs.

Our favorite activity this term has defiantly been creating our own edible gardens as part of hand function and sensory play. We used switches to operate blenders to make mud out of chocolate biscuits, exploring a mix of dry and dusty mud verses some very wet squelchy mud. We had delicious smelling herbs for the grass, making choices between scents. There were even worms and flowers in the gardens. As well as having a great time we did some wonderful talking using symbols and topic boards.

Our post-16 students have been out and about in the community again this term. They have been doing so well picking up the shopping for cooking, ordering what they want in the café and so safe on the roads. Some of our younger students also had the opportunity to attend the Panathlon in Stoke Mandeville where we took home the Bronze medals. Next term offers more trip opportunities so please watch this space.

Finally, we have re started our weekly assemblies. As a pathway we have our assemblies every Tuesday where we celebrate everything that has happened over the previous week. Look out for the 'Star of the Week' certificates awarded on Tuesday and well done to those who have already received one. As always we are so proud of everything you have done this term.

Have a great holiday

Tor, Julie, Maria, Liza, Tor, Sarah, Daniel, Maria, Pauline and Lorna



Core Pathway



Orange Class

Term 5 began with our St George's Day celebrations. We spent the week preparing by sharing the story of St George and the Dragon with the children and exploring it further by dressing up as St George, dragons and princesses to role play the story for ourselves. The children in Orange Class thoroughly enjoyed maypole dancing with Gina and then joining the rest of the school to continue the celebrations outside on the field. Many thanks to the parents who came along to support us.

We quickly moved on to planning our next big celebration: The Platinum Jubilee. This has been our topic for the term. We have shared the story of **The Queen's Hat** – more dressing up! – and found out about some places in London. We enjoyed spotting the Queen's hat on each page, counting the buses and finding the corgis. In **I Want a Party!** The Little Princess found out that you need cake, jelly, balloons and games to have a good time – although she did forget to post her invitations and so none of her guests came. We hope we don't have that problem with our Jubilee celebrations!

Our Maths sessions always start with counting, first up to 10 and then up to 20 and back, using our knowledge to fill in any missing numbers as we go. The children have used container play with water or sand to explore making simple comparisons, noticing that big or small containers hold more or less than others. We have thought about fractions, cutting play food in half to give two equal pieces. Perhaps this is a skill your child could demonstrate if you plan on sharing a cake or a pizza at home?!

So Term 6 will begin with our school Jubilee celebrations, moving on to our final topic this year, which will be **Habitats**. Orange Class will explore the different environments in order to understand where animals live and why.

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



Gold Class – Term 5

Gold Class have really been enjoying learning about Queen Elizabeth II and her life this. We began the topic by discussing what we already know and then what we would like to find out. Gold class are becoming better at asking suitable questions about a topic. If you ask the students, they have learnt an amazing amount and can talk to you about her family, her 70 year reign, the coronation ceremony, her homes and pets. We have done lots of art around the Jubilee including suncatchers and collages. We hope to make models of the Queen using old fashioned wooden dolly pegs. Cooking lessons have been making food that would be suitable for a Jubilee street party and we have created menus for the street party, which are on display in class. We are looking forward to our celebrations as a school after half term. Pupils have also done fantastic non-fiction writing using sub-headings and facts about the Queen.

All pupils have been doing division recently, either using concrete resources, drawing arrays or written short division using times tables. Our topic in science is forces and we have identified pushes and pulls as a force that causes something to move, change speed or direction. Last week, we carried out a scientific investigation to test friction on different surfaces. Firstly, the test was planned as a group and then we rolled a car down a ramp on the various surfaces e.g bubble wrap, carpet, wood, rubber, smooth plastic. Students predicted which surface would slow the car down the most. Which do you think it was?

We have made comparisons between now and the 1950s when Queen Elizabeth was crowned by looking at photos of landmarks in the two eras. Corinne has been teaching them Rock around the Clock from the 1950s in music lessons with percussion instruments. In P.E, Molly has started our training for athletics and we have had the new tennis coach each week teaching us new skills.

All in all, we have had a great, enjoyable term that has gone so quickly!

Maria, Tess, Tina, Esther, Julie and Sarah



Red Class

It was so exciting to see parents, friends and family at the school, St. George's day parade. The children enjoyed dancing round the maypole and exploring other classes' activities. They were most excited about performing their play in front of everyone. They worked so hard on learning their lines and the acting for the play. They were all fabulous and were so pleased with all the comments from you, our visitors, praising their efforts. It was the first time that they had performed in front of a real, live audience and they absolutely smashed it. Charlie's dad took some amazing photographs of the celebrations – you will find these on the school website.

This term we have been lucky enough to have a special tennis coach in school. He has worked with the children for an hour each Wednesday and they are making great progress. I have been particularly impressed with their concentration and enthusiasm. Our PE lessons usually last for half an hour so to work hard and focus for a whole hour is amazing – well done everyone. The children will be given a tennis racket and a T-shirt at the end of their ten weeks which they are very pleased about. There is also an opportunity for them to continue tennis lessons after this. If you are interested in signing your child up for extra lessons please let us know.

Our topic this term has been all about the 'Jubilee'. The children have been learning lots of interesting facts about the Queen. They have also written to her to ask some questions about her life, her family and what it is like to be in charge of the country. The children have drawn many fantastic pictures and portraits of the Queen. We sent some to her with our letters. There are lots of them on display too so if you are in school, keep a look out for them.



Red Class

Charlie and David were chosen to represent the school as part of the sports team at the Panathlon in Stoke Mandeville. The team did incredibly well and came third out of 7 teams. There were lots of compliments about the boys, not just their amazing sports skills but how supportive they were of all the team members, cheering and clapping at everyone's achievements. The staff were also super impressed with how polite and helpful the boys were throughout the day.

Those children who have not yet been on a trip will be going next term so watch this space for exciting news and great pictures.

Lorna, Laura, Jo, Sophie and Giovanna



Communication Pathway



Silver Class

Term 5 has been super for Silver Class and it started with a very exciting celebration of St.George's Day! The children learnt all about why the day is special, we had time in class dedicated to role play and the children made their own St.George's Day shields. Our story was called 'Don't wake the Dragon', so we had to be very quiet when we turned each page! As the sunny weather greeted us we managed to get outside as much as possible to enjoy lots of sensory experiences. The children were hunting for phonemes in phonics, splashing in the water for sensory play, listening to how different foods sounded when we crumbled them and we had opportunities to go on the trampoline during structured play.

Our focus this term has been on the upcoming Jubilee celebrations. Two of our sensory stories have been based on the Queen (The Queen's Hat and The Queen's Handbag). The children have been looking out for the Queen on their communication boards to see if they can spot her during the story. We have also been following visual instructions during our cooking lessons to make traditional British desserts. The children enjoyed making (and eating!) trifle, scones and a Victoria sponge cake. We will continue celebrating the Jubilee after half term as we have a date in the diary for a Kingfisher party on Friday 10th June.

The communication pathway have also started having assemblies again. It has been wonderful to get together on a Friday afternoon as a pathway and celebrate the childrens' successes of the week. Each week the teacher chooses a 'Star of the Week' from their class to receive a certificate and the choice to stand up in assembly at the front. During Week 6, Silver Class pupils are going to walk to Abbey Meadows Park. We will be practising our listening skills and how to walk carefully near roads and in an unfamiliar place.

Have a wonderful half term and we are so excited to welcome Silver class back for our final summer term!

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



Black Class

We have made it to the end of another brilliant term! This term our topic was all about the 'Jubilee.' Whilst I know that we are slightly early, we are now ready and raring to go for our jubilee celebrations at the beginning of next half term. In Literacy this term we explored three different stories including 'Don't Wake the Dragon, The Queens Hat and The Queens Handbag.' We explored the props, practiced our comprehension skills by making sentences about characters in the story and finally we have been practicing our writing skills. Some of us made letters to the queen whilst some of us used PurpleMash to mark make using different colours and textures.

In Art this term we have been exploring the use of colour. We made dragons, roses, crowns and shields using a variety of different resources and techniques. We hope that you might see some of our art work at our special enterprise event next term!

This term we have been learning about sharing and division in simple terms. Some of us have been making number sentences whilst some of us have been sharing resources functionally at our teddy bear picnic. We have also been practicing using positional language. Most of us have now mastered 'on top of' and 'under' and we will continue to work on language 'behind, next to and in front' throughout next term. We used doll houses to achieve this which was very motivating for lots of us. Finally, this term we have been continuing to practice our number skills, numeral recognition and ability to count on from a given number.



Black Class – continued

In Cooking this term we have been making traditional British snacks to go with our jubilee theme. We made scones, trifle, Eton Mess and Victoria sponge cake. We have been practicing our independent living skills by cleaning and washing up afterwards. In Science, we also learnt about things that are hot and cold and safety awareness. Some of us were able to identify things that are okay to touch and things that aren't okay to touch.

During our topic sessions this term we have been comparing the queen to ourselves. Some of us have been identifying similarities and differences whilst others have been sorting photographs into categories based on a certain criteria. e.g. wearing a crown/ not wearing a crown.

A final note to say that we have started our trips to the park this term. The children have been absolutely fantastic and the trips have been enjoyed by all. We hope you have a brilliant break and look forward to our last, hopefully sunny, term.

Katie, Olivia, Amelia, Jennifer, Leann, Sophie



White class

Our Topic this term has been the Jubilee. The students have loved learning about the jubilee and all the important things about it.

Within Storytime, the students enjoyed the Queens Hat, The Queens Handbag and Don't Wake the Dragon. We all enjoyed dressing up in regal clothing, pretending to fight dragons and be a Queen or a King on a throne. The students did well matching symbols from the story, looking at pictures from the story and describing what certain characters were doing. The students also enjoys mark making sessions , which included colouring in their own paper crown, tracing and copying key words from the story.

In cooking class, we have been working on following instructions to make a British dish, such as trifles, eton mess, scones and Victoria cupcakes. The students are really doing well, following instructions and choosing which ingredients they want, they all seemed to love the chocolate trifle.

We have been having amazing music sessions using a resonance board. The students have loved listening to the sounds the board makes when different objects fall on it. All students have really been engaging and not wanting the sessions to end.



White class - continued

As a class, we have managed to go out and about to Abbey Meadows. The children have loved getting into the minibus, travelling there and choosing what apparatus they would like to try. Some wanted to chill on the lie down swing, some wanted to play in the sand, some watched to go on the tyre swing, and some wanted to watch the river from the slide in the part.

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.

Jemma, Ali, Lynette, Julie, Niki and Leann



Blue Class

Good Afternoon Everyone. Well done for making it through to half-term, and what a busy one it's been! We have had an absolute ball with our topic in Blue Class this term as we have explored 'jubilee', thinking about kings, queens, St George and the forthcoming Jubilee.

In literacy we have linked in with the theme, exploring three books: Don't Wake the Dragon, The Queen's Hat and The Queen's Handbag. Pupil especially enjoyed the first of these three books as we dropped pots and pans (like the chef) and did everything not to wake the... oh too late! Of course, this has also allowed us to explore sentence construction and mark making activities.

In maths, our focus has been on division (sharing), place value and positional vocabulary. Pupils impressed us with their ability to solve division number sentences practically, sharing objects and food equally into groups. Some pupils split multilink cube towers into half to find halves of an amount.

In topic we explored 'royalty' and the Queen and found out how she is different to us although there was some debate in one lesson about who has more friends! Perhaps the only stand-alone learning that we've worked on this term has been our science lessons which have focused on forces. Pupils practiced the difference between push and pull and explored moving objects on different surfaces.

Dance and swimming have both been real successes and one pupil earned 'star of the week' by following the rail into the deep end and right around the pool for the first time ever.

Lastly, one of the real highlights of the term has been our St George's Day celebrations (see photos below). Every single Blue Class pupil coped fantastically with the busy environment and lots of new faces.

Whatever you get up to this forthcoming half-term and bank holiday weekend, have a brilliant time and we will see you all very soon.

From Megan, Teresa, Kim, Sarah and Richard



Transition Pathway



Purple Class

Although Term 5 has been the shortest so far, it has been just as busy! We started the term with students preparing for the St George celebrations, helping to create flags and bunting etc. The Enterprise Group made and decorated cup-cakes for the special event. Jakob and Holly took responsibility for face painting on the day, whilst Kayah and Harry set up 'Tag a Duck' game. Students engaged in the activities and had a great time!

The class visited Witney College Campus to have a look round and compare facilities. This will be an option for many of our students when they leave Kingfisher. Some students have continued to visit OXSRAD weekly to try out the gym equipment, whilst others have joined a PE session and worked on their Personal Social Development unit – improving their fitness.

Our Topic work was about FORCES and we thought about simple forces i.e. pull/push and gravity, but mostly we have thought about the upcoming Jubilee celebrations. We have looked at the life of our Queen and watched footage from previous jubilee's. We have started jubilee art to make a dedicated display for the Queen. We have also focussed more on careers and what we want for the future. Some students went for a look around and be interviewed at Budgens in preparation for work experience, whilst some visited Trinity Toddler Group. The AoPE group hosted another Jacket Potato Café for staff and had some really positive feed back! Students have continued developing their living skills and some girls have been learning to iron with Mary. We have also started to focus on road safety again now we are able to get out more in the community.

Lastly, the students helped prepare posters and make cakes and brownies for the Transition Information Event. Harry, Jakob, Ben and Iqra helped set up and help out on the afternoon. We also celebrated our Ben's 17th birthday with delicious cake!

Happy Half Term! *Purple Class – Leah, Mary, Nicola, Gill, Sian, & Julie*

