



Kingfisher Newsletter

15th July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As we move to the end of the school year it is time to reflect on the amazing things your children have achieved with the support and dedication of our devoted staff.

We have had lots to celebrate this year, a few of our pupils are moving on to new colleges in September to continue their education, they celebrated this with a leavers lunch off-site and Kate was invited to go along too. It has been wonderful to be able to have parents, carers and friends on site over the past couple of terms, the Strawberry Tea event was a great success. Gold Class were a great support in preparing the scones with jam, allowing adults and pupils to add their own dollop of cream... the Cornish way!

The building work continues to take shape and we are looking forward to having our new entrance by the end of September, so for the first few weeks pupils will continue to use the existing entrance to come into school. Work will then start on the existing offices and meetings room to turn them into a wonderful post 16 centre complete with kitchen area.

As you are aware, we have renamed the classes for next year, the staff have been really excited to choose them and they are as follows.

Teacher	Class Name
Gal	Macaw
Katie	Woodpecker
Jemma	Penguin
Richard	Heron

Teacher	Class Name
Rachael	Owl
Lorna	Hawk
Maria	Eagle

Teacher	Class Name
Alicia	Flamingo
Siobhan	Robin
Tor and Julie	Toucan
Leah	Albatross



There are some SEN specific sessions available throughout the summer holiday

Swings and Smiles- [Our sessions](#) | [Swings & Smiles \(swingsandsmiles.co.uk\)](#)

Saturday 30th July-1:00-3:00 Carousel Children's Centre, South Abingdon

Tuesday 23rd August 10:00-12:00 Fitwaryn School Wantage

Friday 2nd September 2:00-4:00 Carousel Children's Centre, South Abingdon

Didcot Wave-First Sunday every month [Didcot Wave Leisure Centre](#) | [Gym, Swimming Pool & Classes in South Oxfordshire](#) | [Better](#)

Sunday 7th August 5:30 -7:00

Sunday 4th September 5:30 -7:00

The Bounce Park-Didcot Willowbrook Leisure Centre

Thursday 18th –Monday 22nd August

SEN Session 10.00-11.00

The Bounce Park- Radley College

29th August-2nd September

SEN Session 10.00-11.00

Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th September 2022

INSET Day-All Staff on site

Wednesday 7th September 2022

New school year starts

Friday 14th October 2022

INSET Day

Have a great summer holiday

Lorraine



On Thursdays
Time 9.30-11am or 11.30am-1pm
At Swings & Smiles, Lower Way, Thatcham, RG19 3RR

We have got a fun-packed summer planned for all our siblings at Swings & Smiles, so there has never been a better time to get involved! Please book in advance if you'd like to come along to any of these sessions by emailing office@swingsandsmiles.co.uk.

- 28th July, 10am-4pm - Trip to Jungle Parc, Lydiard Park - £15pp transport included
- 4th August, 9.30-11am (R - Y5) - Arts and crafts at the centre
- 4th August, 11.30am-1pm - Year 6 Sibling Transition Event
- 5th August, 4-5.30pm (Y7+) - Help us get the centre ready for the Open Day (pizza included!)
- 6th August, 11am-1pm - SIBSupport Open Day, all siblings and parents invited
- 11th August, time TBC (all siblings welcome) - Trip to Venue VR
- 15th August, 9.30-11am (R - Y6) and 11.30am-1pm (Y7+) - Art of Brilliance Workshop (offsite)
- 18th August, 9.30-11am (R - Y6) and 11.30am-1pm (Y7+) - Tie dye and ice cream factory
- 19th - 20th August - Trip to PGL Liddington
- 25th August, 9.30-11am (R - Y6) and 11.30am-1pm (Y7+) - Annual water fight!

Registered Charity Number 1120598



Sensory Pathway



Yellow Class

Our Topic this term has been animals, we have been exploring a variety of different textures and learning to express our likes and dislikes towards them. Yellow Class has been doing lots of reading this term and our sensory story “kingfisher farm” was a big highlight.

Yellow Class has really enjoyed TAC PAC and atmospheric lessons this term and also exploring the newly created sensory table full of musical instruments, communication opportunities, books, textures and activities.

In Art we have been learning mark making with a variety of different textures. We collaborated with Red Class to create our team portrait, a beautiful drawing of each of us in class and the children’s beautiful handprints all created by the children in Red Class.

The weather has been amazing and allowed us to explore outdoors and spend time in our bikes. Yellow class has really enjoyed going to the sensory garden and the big field for some lessons and walks especially when other children joined us from other classes. Some of Yellow class children also had the opportunity to go on a trip to the park and spend a day out learning.

Lastly, we have been working hard in PE focusing on both upper and lower body, Molly our sports coach has done incredible work with us feeling different textures with our body parts, pushing, pulling and gasping and releasing different size sensory balls. Our physios have carried on working close with us every Thursday and the improvement is huge so Yellow Class would love to send a big thank you to our triple J’s - Jaro, Jo and James.

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



Green Class

Our Topic this term has been animals, we have been specifically learning about farm animals and the different noises they make.

Our Sensory Story this term has been 'Farm Yard Hullabaloo' by Giles Andreae. We have also been exploring where the animals live, we love exploring the chocolate mud that the pigs live in and the green slimy grass with the horses in. In Sensology we have been listening to the different noises that the animals make, we have been pressing switches to play animal sounds and choosing our favorites. We have been practicing using both hands to squeeze a pig that oinks, we find it really really funny.

In Sensory cooking we have been making humous. To make our humous we mix together chickpeas, garlic, oil and yoghurt. We have lots of fun tasting all of the different ingredients, we then take it in turns to press a switch that controls the blender mixing everything together.

It was lovely seeing everyone at the strawberry tea, we had lots of fun singing, eating strawberry jam and planting seeds to grow.

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



Pink Class

It has been a lovely end to the term in Pink Class. Some of the highlights beyond the classroom have been the Jubilee Celebrations that everyone enjoyed. Thank you very much to all the parents that attended the celebrations and buying the items we had made. We particularly enjoyed cleaning the wellies and planting them beautifully with the marigolds. It was particularly lovely to see the students responding to modelled support and work on the planting themselves. Some of us also had the opportunity to go on a Barge trip. We were incredibly lucky with the weather and it was beautifully both days. The students had the opportunity to travel down the river and support with operating the locks. It was also lovely to see parents back in school for the Strawberry Tea after noon. We hope that you enjoyed the Sensology Session in the Sensory garden. We enjoyed showing you how we use our communication boards and visual timetables.

One of our favourite activities this term has been linked to phonics. We have been exploring flip flap books where the head and the tails of animals can be interchanged. The crazy animals and rhymes that have been created using this book have resulted in lots of smiles and giggles. After exploring the rhythm and rhyme we have been creating our own animals using our preferred methods of choosing. The students have been so clear in their choices using objects, symbols or topic boards to create animals; for example their 'chigs' being the head of a chicken and feed of a pig. During this activity we have been particularly impressed by how independently the children were wishing to work.

Our massage story this term has been very popular. We have used sections from the Peter and the Wolf piece of music. Once the students got used to the new story they have enjoyed making choices between the different massages moves and pieces of music. The Peter and Cat themes seem to be those chosen the most to repeat. The students would probably enjoy a listen if you have any long summer drives planned.

To end the year we would just like to say a massive well done to the progress that every student has made over the course of the year. Whatever their different targets or needs every member of Pink Class have work hard. Well done Pink Class, have a wonderful summer with your family and friends. We look forward to seeing what you achieve next year.

Take care and have a wonderful summer

Tor, Julie, Maria, Liza, Sue, Sarah, and Lorna



Core Pathway



Orange Class

It is hard to believe that we have come to the end of another school year – the first year at Kingfisher for most of the children in Orange Class. There have been so many achievements along the way, both in terms of the children's learning and their personal development, and I feel immensely proud of them all! Here are some of our best bits ...



Orange Class - continued

Kingfisher – a place where everyone is valued to develop independence through an enriching curriculum which is worthwhile.

Many thanks for your support during this school year. Have a wonderful summer.

Rachael, Beccie, Megan, Tracy and Charlotte.



Red Class

As the summer term draws to a close we have been reflecting on what we have enjoyed most this year at school. The children had lots of interesting thoughts about their favourite things:

Leythan: "I have enjoyed playing tennis."

Jessica: "I like 'PurpleMash' on a Tuesday with Lorraine Green."

David: "I like playing football with my friends."

Charlie: "Doing maths is my favourite."

Isabel: "The Queen's Jubilee party was the best."

Hector: "Playing jail games with my friends."



Red Class - continued

Lewis: “It was Sport’s day when my family came.”

Camron: “Horse riding.”

Henry: “Writing, when you gave use those pictures to look at and we could think about what might be happening in them.”

Seb: “After School Club.”

My favourite was the barge trips and when I said this to the children they all laughed, they had forgotten what fun we all had on our barges. You should be so proud of them all. They were polite, kind, friendly and helpful. They listened so carefully to the grown-ups on the boat and helped out with driving and the opening and closing of the locks. They were so sensible and so independent it made me a very proud teacher.

We all hope that you have an amazing summer.

Lorna, Laura, Jo, Sophie and Giovana



Gold Class

The highlights of the term must be the Platinum Jubilee celebrations at the beginning of the term and of course the Strawberry Tea this week. It was amazing to see so many families enjoying the sunshine and strawberries. Although we did put some activities in the shade, Gold Class students were more than happy chatting and socialising with the visitors, which is lovely. They were also amazing at preparing the hundreds of strawberries and trays of scones for the event and were good Ambassadors when directing visitors to the different areas of school for the three pathways.

Our topic has been habitats, which is always a favourite. We began the topic thinking about animals, insects and plants that have habitats in the UK and around school and we enjoyed a bug hunt on the field. A few students spent ages at the bottom of the field searching under old logs and found many insects include a centipede under the slide! Students made a tally of the insects that they found and we made bar charts in class. Some students used post it notes to make the bars while others drew a scale (the tricky bit) and had a go at drawing a bar chart on squared paper. We got sticky, while making bird feeders using lard, seeds and raisins and squashing the mixture into pinecones to hang up. After finding out about some of the local habitats, we went further afield and learnt about the ocean habitat and rainforest. Students enjoyed a book, *The Great Kapok Tree*, by Lynne Cherry and have done some written work including writing a letter to the man in the story asking him not to chop down the tree giving lots of reasons why he shouldn't. We also read a playscript version of the story and did drama around the characters, which was good fun.

We have been growing fruit and vegetables outside the class this term and have had three ripe strawberries. Hayden along with some of his peers have been looking after them well, watering each day and making sure the tomato plants are still standing upright with the canes. I believe we have some gardeners in the making. Maths lessons have finished this week by measuring capacity, which has involved lots of water outside, while it has been so warm.

Finally we are looking forward to our trip to TVAP this Friday.

Maria, Tess, Tina, Esther, Julie and Sarah



Communication Pathway



Silver Class

Silver class has had a fantastic term 6 and it has been lovely exploring the outdoors so much in this sunny weather. The children have really enjoyed learning about animals in their habitats and their excellent effort in their learning has been reflected on Evisense. This term the children have worked hard on their cooking skills by chopping, mixing and following instructions. The children particularly enjoyed the lesson making ice cream sundaes! They were very keen to choose the ice cream flavour and choose which toppings they would like whilst following the instructions.

We have looked in depth at three different animal habitats this term. During the first two weeks we learnt all about the ocean and the animals that live in it. We enjoyed water play during our sensory experience, reading the story 'Rainbow Fish' and creating beautiful artwork relating to animals in the sea. After that we looked at the desert and fortunately it was hot that week! The children listened to 'Meerkat Mail' in sensory story sessions, created a dessert that looked like a watering hole and they were very excited by the desert sensory experience. The children enjoyed sand play and a hide and seek game with animals from the desert. Finally we read the story 'Rumble in the Jungle' because we were learning about life in the jungle. The children enjoyed singing our jungle songs and listening to the noises each jungle animal would make. The children made long dangly vines using a variety of materials they could choose from and these became a great addition to our jungle experience at the end of term.

The children's social skills have really blossomed this term and some will initiate play together. The children have been signing or singing good morning to each other everyday and like to greet point or wave when we say each child's name. They have developed their turn-taking skills during structured play times and have been sharing their toys with their friends.

Silver class have enjoyed lots of additional special activities this term including the Jubilee and Strawberry Tea. There are some fantastic photos of the Jubilee on the website and it was great to see the children having such a wonderful time together. Silver class have had a fantastic year and it has been an absolute pleasure teaching them. Have a brilliant and well-deserved rest this summer Silver class!

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



White class

Our Topic this term has been Animals including habitats. The students have really been engaged exploring, reading and learning about different animals and where they live.

Within Storytime, the students enjoyed reading Rumble in the Jungle, Meerkat Mail and Rainbow Fish. During Storytime the students were getting really good at using the 'I see' communication boards to identify the animal props. The students were able to show understanding of the story by matching symbols from the story, looking at pictures from the story and describing what certain characters were doing, constructing sentences. The students also enjoyed mark making sessions which included, making different shapes and patterns in the dessert sand, pressing objects into playdough to create different shapes and patterns, tracing and copying key words from the story. Within topic, we have been learning about habitats such as the jungle, desert and ocean through sensory play using the tough tray. Adults have been modelled what the animals may do in their habitats, which the children have been copying through play.

In cooking class, we have been working on learning how to use utensils, focusing on chopping vegetables and salad to make a rainbow salad, focusing on sprinkling, spreading and mixing to decorate a rice cake and scooping, sprinkling and chopping to make an ice cream sundae. The students especially enjoyed making the ice cream sundae, and eating it too! Within art, the students have been using communication boards and their fine motor skills to create rainbow octopus stained glass window, under the sea clay shells, meerkat masks, mosaic cactus, feathers parrots and decorating jungle leaves. We have continued to take part in music sessions using a resonance board. The students are becoming really engaged, following patterns and becoming aware of what is coming next.

We hope you have a restful summer holiday.

Jemma, Ali, Lynette, Julie, Amy, Niki and Leann.



White class - continued



Black Class

We have come to the end of a fantastic year. I am so incredibly proud of the progress of each child in Black Class.

Our topic this term was 'Animals and Habitats' and we focused on three different habitats. We learnt about animals in the ocean, the desert, and the rainforest. Some of us were able to identify key features of their habitats and some of us were able to label and sort animals according to their habitat.

Our stories this term were Rainbow Fish, Meerkat Mail and Rumble in the Jungle. We explored sensory props, practiced writing sentences, and practiced using adjectives. We also made our own pictures of characters from the story using Purple Mash on the ipads. The children had to choose how to design their animal and try their best to stay within the lines when mark making.

In Numeracy we explored number, weight and calculations. We used dice and written numerals to play a variety of different games. When learning about weight some of us explored weighing scales, identifying 'heavy' and 'light.' Some of us tried to find objects that were heavier or lighter than the previous item and some of us weighed out specific amounts using electronic scales.

In Cooking this term, we practiced different skills including spreading, chopping and grating. We made ice creams, rice cake snacks and rainbow salads. I must say that the ice creams seemed to be the favourite, especially as we made them during the heatwave!



Black Class - continued

This term we managed to get out and about with various trips to the park. Our main focus was to practice road safety. We practiced stopping at the end of roads, waiting for cars and looking left and right before making a decision to cross the road. We also practiced using zebra crossings. Most of all we had lots of fun in the park exploring all the apparatus! I would like to say how impressed I am with everyone in Black Class. They were absolute superstars, and we were able to see progress in such a short amount of time. Well done everyone! Our assemblies also resumed this term and we have enjoyed sharing our achievements with some of the other classes in the communication pathway.

Black Class have been a delight to teach this year. They have worked so incredibly hard and have achieved so much. I hope you all have a brilliant and relaxing summer and most importantly have lots of fun!

Katie, Olivia, Amelia, Nicola, Leann



Blue Class

Hello everyone and a massive congratulations for making it through to the summer holidays. It has been lovely to see so many of you in person over the past few weeks for parents evening and our strawberry tea and I hope you've been surviving and dare I say enjoying the hot weather!

Blue Class pupils have achieved fantastically this past term and indeed this year. It has been brilliant to see them maturing in a wealth of different ways whether academically in class or even in simply in their ability to cope with changing or varied circumstances. A great example of this includes our recent barge trips which were a real success... this even despite the canal lock breaking down, stranding the second group!

This term we have enjoyed exploring different habitats. We kicked off in week one with 'oceans' and the story 'The Rainbow Fish' before progressing to 'deserts' and 'rainforest' with the books 'Meerkat Mail' and 'Rumble in the Jungle' respectively. Pupils got stuck in eagerly and loved the associated tasks and sensory activities.

In maths, as well as number and calculation, pupils investigated 'weight' this term. For some this involved identifying heavy and light objects where others sequenced different bags by weight or began to weigh objects using non-standard units i.e. counting how many blocks an item weighed.

P.E. and dance have continued to be a hit with pupils. Some have even requested to stay in the sessions longer when it's been time to swap over! In swimming we have blown Angela the swimming instructor away with our young people's progress. Whether accessing deeper water with confidence, learning to do a star-float or swimming lengths with greater independence, everyone has made positive strides forward.

Art has likewise been a hit with pupils producing a wide variety of creations, most of which you should have received along with their art folders. P.S. Before anyone else asks, it's a stained-glass window jellyfish!

Whatever your plans are for the summer, big or small, have a truly fantastic time and make sure to enjoy a well-earned holiday break. All the best,

From Megan, Teresa, Kim, Leann, Sarah, and Richard



Blue Class - continued



Transition Pathway



Purple Class

We started Term 6 with our wonderful Jubilee celebrations which was enjoyed by all. Term 6 has literally 'flown by', which is most apt as we visited Fitzwaryn School to attend the Fly2Help session which exemplified what happens at an airport and when in flight (work related learning). Some of the students experienced going through security, acting as air hospitality and even flying the plane! We have continued working on independent targets and joining our ability groups for Literacy and Maths. Great work everyone!

Our Topic work has focused on Animals – and their habitats. We have thought about all the different animals and creatures all over the world and matched them to their different habitats. We have thought about what animals need from their habitats and how animals adapt to their climate. Thankfully we don't have Anaconda's naturally living in our country!

We have focussed more on careers, different jobs and continuing to develop our life skills such as shopping, food prep, making beds, learning to iron, washing etc. Some students have worked on constructing CV's and have attended work experience placements at Budgens, the local charity shop and Trinity toddler group. All students have worked well and followed their instructions. We have enjoyed trips out in the local community focusing on road safety etc and continued our fitness and leisure via using the gym at OXSRAD, PE and Health & Fitness sessions. At Wheels4All some students received a medal for their achievements from the Mayor of Oxford! The Enterprise Group hosted another successful Jacket Potato Café and students finally finished off work for their accreditation. Well done to all!

Lastly, the students helped prepare posters, organise and meet & greet parents/carers/visitors for the Strawberry Tea event. A special Happy Birthday to Alicia! Despite the heat, we are hoping to end the term with a special trip shared with Gold Class and a celebratory pub lunch (funded by Enterprise) to say a special goodbye and good luck to our leavers – Jakob and Iqra who are embarking on their next journey at college. We all wish them well and are going to miss them!

Happy Holidays everyone!

Purple Class – Leah, Mary, Nicola, Gill, Sian, & Julie

