



# Kingfisher Newsletter

**21<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

# Dear Parents and Carers

What a wonderful start to the new Academic Year, we have been blessed with lots of sunshine and not too many showers. The pupils have all settled well into their new classes and have soon got used to the new class names. It is really good to see how quickly everyone has remembered the new names and how both the staff and pupils have bought into it. We have seen a real increase in class identity, with many of us choosing to have bird themed items such as lanyards, drink bottles and lunch boxes.

The building works have been coming along slowly, a lot slower than was anticipated. The staff have been resilient in working around the various disruptions and the pupils have continued with the vast majority of their curriculum undisturbed. There have been issues with the swimming pool and ball pool, as the gas line and the electricity supply were relocated over the summer holidays and therefore work in both areas couldn't take place. The swimming pool is once again fully functional and it is hoped that the lightroom will be up and running very soon after half term. The equipment in there is now well over 5 years old and we are looking to upgrade some of this once the room itself is complete. In addition to this there has been extremely limited parking onsite for staff as we have had to make room for the buses in the morning and the afternoon.

Talking of the swimming pool, it is really good to see the equipment that was funded by the PFSA in full use by all classes, it is difficult to show this in the newsletter, as you cannot hear the sound or see the light very well. However, you can see that the pupils and staff at Kingfisher have really appreciated the new sensory sound and light system on poolside. The gentle music helps pupils from all pathways remain calm and focused during lessons. The uplighters, spotlights and disco ball have all been a big hit, with pupils from the sensory pathway actively swimming towards the lights and tracking the shapes on the ceiling and walls.

Our pupils have been out and about a lot more this term, with regular visits to the Community Garden at Stonehill, OXSRAD and shopping locally. There is also a weekly visit to Wheels for All. We are also setting up visits to Millets Farm after the half term break.



Sports Day was a successful event, it is a shame that we couldn't have you, our parents and carers into school to support your children, we have some photos that Simon came in to take for us, once these are loaded onto the website, I will let you know how to access them. We also had Music for Autism into school, they are a charity that supports our pupils and they are always a welcome addition to our school. Trinity Church Singers continue to come into school once a week to work with our Sensory Pathway in particular.

We aim to have a coffee morning on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November and be able to invite all parents and carers back into school. There will be an opportunity to get to know the parents of the other pupils in the class, if you wish your child to join you in the hall please let the class teacher know in advance of the day and they will be brought up to you.

### **Dates for your Dairy**

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

Return to School

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022 Remembrance Day**

Coffee Morning to meet other parents

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

Last day of term, 2pm finish for pupils

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

New Term begins

Have a great half term holiday

*Lorraine*





# Sensory Pathway



# Flamingo Class

Our Topic this term has been Cold Countries and as part of this topic we have been exploring all things cold and snowy. We have been exploring snowy shaving foam and looking for arctic animals hidden inside. Our Sensory Story this term has been The great explorer by Chris Judge, this story follows a boy who travels to the north pole to rescue his dad. When the boy gets to the north pole he find all sorts of animals including a whale and a giant walrus. In Flamingo class these animals are stuck in messy sensory activities such as snowy cornflour and water.

In Sensology and Sensory Cooking this term we have been continuing with our topic of cold countries. In Sensology we have been smelling hot chocolate, pressing buttons to listen to polar bears and moving our fingers to explore blue shiny materials. In Sensory cooking we have been building snowmen out of marshmallows and sticky icing, we all love watching the icing sugar sprinkled onto the table. We give our snowmen 2 twiglet arms, a lot of us are not sure about the smell of these.

In Phonics this term we have been reading lots of stories. We have been choosing our favourite books to read and practicing turning the pages. In PE this term we have been practicing pushing balls down ramps to knock over skittles at the bottom, we have been learning to use both hands and to let go of the ball.

*Alicia, Kerryann, Sally, Emma, Katia*



# Toucan Class

A big warm welcome from us all in Toucan class. We have painted some lovely colourful Toucan birds for our classroom during our Art sessions. We have had a great first term and we all have worked hard on all of our targets.

In Literacy during our Phonics sessions we have enjoyed working on our pre-reading skills. Some of us have been looking at the story 'lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. A firm favourite part of the story with us all has been feeding the penguin his fish. Some of us have started the Read write Inc program and have made super progress with our sounds m, a, s and are now starting the d sound. We are able to recognize and repeat the sounds orally or by pressing a switch and are working hard at recognising pictures beginning with those sounds. We have been practicing making the shapes of letters by working on making horizontal, vertical and circular marks on paper. Our sensory story about a Polar bear going on an adventure has been greatly enjoyed and we have used our senses to explore all the different parts of the story. Highlights have been exploring the cold water and ice, the falling snow for the Polar bear to make footprints in, the fishy smell of the Polar bear's supper and hiding underneath the blanket when the polar bear falls asleep in his dark cave.

In Numeracy we have all worked hard to achieve our individual targets around Number and Place value. We have enjoyed using our own forms of communication to choose number songs, with our firm favourites being 'Ten fat sausages' and 'Ten green bottles'. Some of us are getting very good at counting how many pupils are in our class each day as well.

In PE we have had fun exploring the sensory circuit in the hall and also practicing our ball skills. We and are all very good at bowling. Dance with Bella has been fun, especially waving the colourful scarves around as we move to the music. During our weekly singing sessions with Clare and with Trinity choir we love using the props for all of the songs, playing the musical instruments and making choices as to what to sing next. A favourite song is the 'wiggly worm' song with the long pieces of fabric twirling around on sticks.

We hope you all have a lovely week and are looking forward to a very exciting Term 2, all about 'Celebrations and Good Times'.

*Julie, Tor, Maria, Lynette, Sarah, Sue and Sonia.*





# Robin Class

It has been a very busy term in Robin Class. The pupils have enjoyed participating in their Sensory Story sessions. This term, our Sensory Story has been “We are going on a Polar Bear Hunt”. The pupils have been using their communication boards to express if they would like the chimes to be played loudly or quietly, and to express if they did or did not like a particular story prop.

The pupils have all worked hard during their Physio sessions, whether this be in the classroom, swimming pool, or during PE sessions. It has been so pleasing to see how determined and focused the pupils have been. Pupils have been doing so well with their Physio exercises both in the pool on dry land and also some have been doing some fantastic work whilst in her standing frame. Horse-riding has served as a firm favourite with some pupils, who beam from ear to ear when he is shown the symbol for horse riding.

In Phonics, we have been reading the story, “Polar bear, polar bear, what do you hear?”. This story has provided Robin class with lots of laughter. All the pupils have been captivated by the various sounds heard by the zookeeper. Some pupils adored listening to the echo sound and others loved the sound of the elephant trumpeting as he sprayed water. Pupils were so engaged during these sessions, and they have also been turning the pages of the story, which is a great achievement. All the pupils enjoyed feeding fish to the hungry Polar Bear to stop his tummy from rumbling.

The pupils have all worked extremely hard this term and it has been delightful to see how they have all approached every session with both enthusiasm and tenacity.

We hope that you all have a great half-term break.

*Siobhan, Amanda, Liza, Tracey, Julia, Pauline, Eleanor, Lorna and Dawn*



# Core Pathway





# Owl Class

A big 'Welcome Back' to everyone, with a special welcome to the new children joining us this term. Everyone has settled in quickly and we have lots of exciting learning to share with you.

Our topic this term has been 'Cold Countries'. We have noticed what the weather is like each day as part of our Good Morning routine and have thought carefully about the kinds of clothes we would wear when it is hot or cold, investigating this in the dressing up corner. Inspired by our story, Lost and Found, we even chose what to pack in our bags for a trip to the South Pole.

We have explored freezing and melting in science through sensory play with ice and by using other materials as part of our cooking sessions. We melted chocolate to make chocolate banana pops and saw that it set again when we put them in the freezer. We even made our own ice cream by shaking the ingredients in a bag surrounded by ice cubes – very exciting and delicious too!



# Owl Class continued

This term we introduced ***Read Write Inc. Phonics*** for many children in the school, including those in Owl Class. After just a few weeks of teaching, the children are becoming familiar with the sound made by each letter of the alphabet and how to form the letters when writing them. Some are also starting to blend sounds together to sound out short words. These are the first steps in learning to read. Well done, Owl Class!

In maths, the children have been developing their number skills, counting accurately with 1:1 correspondence and extending the range of numbers that they are confident with. We practise counting at the start of each maths session – to 10, then 20, counting up and back. This is something you could also do at home. Sometimes we choose to start counting from a different number, eg: 4 or 25, depending on our skills., and we also count in 10s. In ‘calculation’ we have been exploring ‘more’ and ‘less’ through sensory and play activities, moving on to finding one number more / less on the number line or 100 square. Children are also working on their ILP targets.

Have a good half term break!

*Rachael, Beccie, Nicola and Sidney.*



# Hawk Class

Welcome to the very first Hawk Class newsletter. We have all had an amazing term and there is so much exciting news to share. The new children have all settled in really well and are using the signs that we use regularly in class with almost no help already. They have learnt the class routines and are very good at remembering where to put their diaries and lunchboxes when they first get to class in the mornings. The children who have been with us for a while seem to have really grown up over the holidays and have been showing the new children where things are, how to play and make good choices throughout the school day.

Sports Day was very exciting with lots of great activities and challenges. We did miss you very much and hope that you will be able to come and visit us in school soon. It always feels really special when we can share our learning and activities with our family and friends. We worked hard and tried our best in all the sports challenges and were so pleased and proud when we were awarded our medals.

Angela and Dawn have also been very impressed with our swimming skills. They couldn't believe how brilliant we are and were so proud that we had not forgotten any of the skills that we had learnt last year. Even those children who have come from different schools or classes were amazing in the water – well done to everyone – keep up the great swimming.





# Hawk Class

We have really enjoyed our phonics lessons this term, we have some exciting new ways of learning and some great new resources. The staff in Hawk class have been amazed and delighted at the enthusiasm shown by the children and just how much they have learnt in such a short space of time. They are also using their phonics sounds to write some simple words and are absolutely smashing it!!

Another great hit for this term has been cooking on a Tuesday and then selling our cakes and biscuits to our friends in Eagle class on a Friday. We have been setting up a 'Costa Café' in class and inviting children in to order snacks and drinks from the menu. We then have to prepare their orders, serve them at the table and then work out how much they need to pay before they leave. It has been very popular and the children really enjoy being the waiters and serving our guests. Cooking itself has been great fun too. We have made lots of sweet treats such as flapjacks, rocky road and krispy cakes. Last week we had a go at making our own sandwiches. The children got quite brave and put all sorts of unusual things together. One suggestion was the tastiest in my opinion – grated cheese and honey – worth a try, good idea.

Some pupils have been visiting the community garden this term where they have helped with lots of jobs including laying a wood-shavings path, collecting the eggs and planting things ready to grow. They have also worked with children from different classes in the garden and modelled great behaviour and helped their friends where they could.

*Lorna, Laura, Jo and Sophie.*



# Eagle Class

What a good start to the school year! We are delighted to welcome 3 pupils from Hawk Class plus a pupil, who is new to the school. We have started the year as we mean to go on with exciting topics and lots of excellent learning. We are still using our Zones of Regulation to help us develop a better understanding of our feelings and we are using strategies to self-regulate and feel happy and focused. Even though it has remained quite mild here, our topic has been to learn about cold countries, which linked nicely to Frozen Planet with David Attenborough. We have watched snippets from this amazing program, and we have used globes to find the colder parts of the world, near the North and South Pole. We have researched the wildlife that lives in these colder climates and have thought about their adaptations allowing them to survive there. We have found out about the local Inuit people, their clothing and way of life, which is very different to ours and made lovely posters to explain what we have learnt.

In science, we have looked at materials and their properties; aiming to describe them using the correct scientific language. We enjoyed preforming a test on houses made of sticks, straw and bricks (lego) to see which would withstand wind and rain. Most of the class predicted that the brick house would be the strongest, but actually none of them turned out to be waterproof. Perhaps we need to rethink the design and how we could make improvements.

In maths lessons, we have all made good progress with a better understanding of place value and we have worked at addition and subtraction at our own individual levels. Today we tried to put our subtraction knowledge to good use to work out how much change we would get if purchasing items of different prices. As always, cooking has been a favourite part of the week and we have made lunchtime snacks including vegetable pasta and bacon butties. We still participated in sports day earlier this term, which was great fun and we have been playing badminton in our other P.E lessons.

*Maria, Tess, Tina, Esther, Jennifer and Sarah*



# Communication Pathway





# Macaw Class

What an incredible first term we have had in Macaw Class. Our topic this term has been cold countries and one of the highlights with it has been our polar bear sensory story. All of us have really enjoyed the rhythm of the song and exploring all the sensory prompts that goes with them. Another highlight has also been learning about maps and creating our own Kingfisher school map in where the pupils explore the entire school as an adventure.

This term we participated in Sports Day and it was a success in Macaw Class as everyone really enjoyed all the areas that Angela and our sports coaches set up for us. We have to say we were really impressed on the ability that Macaw Class has to throw an object (bean bags etc). Swimming has also been a favourite and we would like to give our class a big shout out for their incredible work on it.

This term we incorporated Read Write Inc into school as our phonics method and the reception has been amazing. We have been shocked with everyone's ability on a daily basis and the staff have also done an incredible job on it. In Macaw Class some pupils have shown great skills and they have done incredible teamwork at learning new sounds, picture cards and writing, we celebrate it every day with a big high five. Others have shown a big interest on letter sounds and enjoyed exploring RWI on his iPad and managed to get the entire family involved so well-done.

In Maths we have been exploring tall and small / long and short and pupils created a beautiful city made from Lego completely independent. We have also done a few trips to the sensory pathway where we have watered plants and look at the different colours and smells around us. Pupils are phenomenal and have shown incredible independence and love for the watering can. They have also really enjoyed looking at the different flowers and using a communication strip for it.

Have a wonderful half term

*Gal, Olívia, Ellie, Megan and Leann*



# Woodpecker Class

Woodpecker Class have got off to an excellent start this year and I am incredibly proud of how well everyone has settled in. We have so much to celebrate at the end of this term as every child has shown progress!

This term we have been exploring 'Cold Countries' in a variety of different ways. Our stories this term were Charlie Crow in the Snow, Going on a Polar Bear Hunt and The Great Explorer. Through these texts we used sensory props to discover key features of a cold country, find objects and pictures on the page and create key phrases and sentences using visual support. One of the highlights was going into our pretend cave and being chased by the polar bear.

In Maths this term we focused on Number and Place Value. We contrasted quantities, learnt about one and lots and explored money. We have also been applying our Maths skills to other contexts such as cooking, P.E and snack time. In line with our Cold Countries topic this term we made hearty foods that you might like to eat if you were in a cold country. This included soup, hot chocolate and porridge. We focused on skills such as chopping and sprinkling whilst working on our independence skills.

Our Topic this term focused mainly on Geography. We explored different weather, features of a cold country and using maps. We also had a big focus on zones of regulation this term, matching feelings to photographs and using strategies to regulate our emotions. We will continue to work on this throughout the year but are off to a flying start! As well of this, in Art we used different materials to create multi sensory art. We made binoculars, maps and made a snow scene using cotton wool. We are very proud of our binoculars and have been putting them to practice! In our Communication sessions this term we have been using aided language boards to request and comment across a variety of different contexts. The children have also been practicing their engagement skills through Attention Bucket which seems to be a very popular session!

Have a brilliant half term break. I am very much looking forward to seeing what the next half term brings!

*Katie, Amelia, Julie, Eleonor, Leann*



# Penguin Class

Our Topic this term has been cold countries. The pupils have really been engaged exploring, reading and learning about features of cold countries.

Within Storytime, the students enjoyed reading *The Great Explorer*, *We're Going on a Polar Bear Hunt*, *Charlie Crow in the Snow*. During Storytime the students were getting really good at using the 'I see' communication boards to identify the props, and requesting to explore them. The students were able to show understanding of the story by looking at pictures from the story and describing what certain characters were doing, constructing sentences. The pupils also enjoyed mark making sessions which included, encouraging to make marks through messy play e.g. shaving foam as snow, making vertical and horizontal lines, tracing and copying key words from the story, creating a descriptive sentence from looking at the pictures in the story.

Within topic, we have been learning about the features of cold countries, choosing what we would wear in a cold country, what animals would live there, looking at maps and using maps within the school. The pupils really enjoyed using the maps in the field, to find items. Within PSHE, we have been using Zones of Regulation to state what makes us feel like we are in the red, yellow, green and blue zones. It has been really interesting to see what might make the pupils feel sad, excited, angry and happy. We have also been playing friendship games to get to know our peers better, the pupils really enjoyed duck, duck goose.





# Penguin Class continued

In cooking class, we have been focusing on cooking food that you would have in cold countries. The pupils have been focusing on following instructions to make the meal and focus on using utensils. We have been making soup, hot chocolate and porridge, the pupils enjoyed making the soup the most! Within art, the students have been using aided communication boards to choose outfits for card people to wear in hot and cold countries, ice cube painting, cotton ball snow storm, suncatchers, maps and binoculars. The pupils always look forward to art sessions. Within PE, we have been working on our sports day skills, and attending dance classes, they pupils always get stuck in with every exercise and have fun.

We hope you have a restful half term.

*Jemma, Ali, Megan, Kim & Eleanor*



# Heron Class

Hi All and welcome back for another year. Both pupils and staff have been hard at work this term getting our learning rolling.

With winter weather just around the corner we've so far been blessed with warm sun and settled days for the most part and pupils have monopolised on this opportunity, enjoying a wide range of activities outside. Over the course of the term these have included following a map to locate teddies hidden on the field in topic (geography) lessons, varied play opportunities and physical activities at lunchtime, and dare I say it even sports day early on in October!

Back in class we have very much enjoyed our sensory stories: 'Pete the Cat – Rockin in my school shoes', 'The Great Explorer', 'We're Going on a Polar Bear Hunt' and 'Charlie Crow in the Snow'. When not completing associated mark making, comprehension or sentence construction tasks, pupils have enjoyed weekly cooking and art lessons making associated creations from everything from suncatchers to camouflage binoculars - "Looking for Clues"!

In maths we have had a fresh drive toward number and place value as well as calculation and spent some time at the end of term considering positional vocabulary, moving our toys around different toy houses accordingly.

Swimming has once again largely been a resounding success for us in the latter half of the term. Whilst there was some delay in getting started due to construction work, pupils have (for want of a better pun) 'dived' straight back in with progress already being noted.

One of the key learning highlights this term has been the introduction of 'Read Write Inc' right across the school setting. Pupils in class are now engaging with daily RWI sessions and are already progressing across the sounds at pace, encountering and adding a new one into the mix weekly.

Have a fantastic half term,

*From Amy, Teresa, Sarah, Ellie, Leann and Richard*



# Transition Pathway





# Albatross Class

Term 1 has got off to a flying start and we welcome our new students. We started the term by getting to know more about each other and our families. We have celebrated birthdays and enjoyed some cake! We have enjoyed some delicious Friday meals, prepared and cooked by the students under Mary's watchful eye. All students have participated in their ability Phonics Group and Maths in various forms, including shopping and spending their money at the cafe. We have worked on our independent life skills and have all mucked in to complete our jobs.

The Enterprise Group made cakes for a raffle for the Macmillan Coffee Morning and hosted another successful Jacket Potato Café. They are developing their skills in the kitchen as well as understanding the process of making money. The Communication Group have worked on 'Seasons' and developing their knowledge of the different seasons including how we adapt to the changes. We have thought about Harvest Festival and took responsibility for collecting donations to deliver to the local church. We have visited OXSRAD taking turns for Rebound trampolining, using the gym and games in the hall. Some pupils have worked in the café this term! Cycling has been fun and our new students have enjoyed the new venture! One pupil has started to peddle! Another is riding with stabilizers and some are off round the track with no fear! Oh and Sports Day was great fun too! And more medals!

Our Topic work has focussed on 'Ourselves' followed by whole school topic – Cold Countries. We have considered hot vs cold and found out about some of the coldest areas on Earth, namely those counties near to the top and bottom of our planet - the polar regions. Some students have sorted hot and cold objects matching to a water bottle and freezer pack. Lastly, we have thought about the upcoming festivals such as Sukkot and Divali, 'the festival of light'. Moving into Term 2, we will look and think about 'light and darkness' and how the Divali festival compares with our traditional Christmas celebrations. We are all looking forward to the Christmas celebrations and our Christmas Performance.

Happy Half Term everyone! *Albatross Class – Leah, Mary, Gill, Sian, Sonia, Leann & Rachel*

