



Kingfisher Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

As we break up for the Christmas Holidays we reflect on what has been a really busy term, with lots of amazing things happening.

All pupils have been really focussed on their learning, the Read Write Inc sessions are continuing to have a real impact. Many of our pupils are continuing to develop their speech as well as their phonological knowledge.

We have managed to cram in lots of events this term, as well as supporting various charities along the way. Our Coffee Morning for the Poppy Appeal was a huge success. We managed to raise a substantial amount of money and eat lots of cake in the process. It was great to see so many parents coming in to join in the celebrations and our pupils ensured that we were all silent at 11am to remember those who have given such sacrifice in years gone by. We will have the final figure from the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in the new year.

We also raised money for Helen and Douglas House by wearing our Christmas Jumpers, donations at our Christmas Performance and our staff Christmas Card board. On first count we believe we will be sending over £150 when we have all the money in. Our Christmas Performance showing was a well received event, thank you so much to those of you that attended and also those of you who have given feedback on the event. We are aiming to purchase a much larger screen to enable the showing of this and other events more enjoyable. I have to say a big thankyou to all the staff and pupils for their participation, in particular Michael who put the film together and Clare and Lizz, our music therapist, who supported the musical accompaniments to make the whole video a huge success. It will be uploaded to our website, where you will be able to show it to family and friends. Here is the link [Christmas Performance 2022](#).

This past week, we have had Santa visit to hand out presents, the pupils were all really. The cost of these presents have been funded by the PFSA, who are looking for new Parents, Friends and Staff to join them. If you are interested in this, please give the office a call or contact Clare Johnson our HLTA to find out more.

Today we have had a visit from the naughty elf..... however Penguin Class got their own back on him and splatted him with a shaving foam pie.



Trinity Church, whose singers come into school once a week to support our experiences in Sensory Pathway, have asked us to let you know that there is an inclusive Christingle Service on Christmas Eve at 4.30pm and an Inclusive Family Service at 10am on Christmas Day. All are welcome to attend.

Wednesday 4th January 2023

INSET Day-All Staff on site

Thursday 5th January 2023

All Pupils in school

Friday 3rd February 2022

Coffee Morning 10:00-11:30

Friday 10th February 2023

Last Day of Term

Monday 20th February 2023

First Day of Term

We are saying goodbye to Maria Penn, who is moving to pastures new. It is amazing that she can share her expertise with staff and continue to support pupils in another school.

Finally, an update on Kate. She is at home and is doing well. She has managed to get out in a wheelchair to see a local nativity play. I and other members of staff have visited and taken around cards and gifts. Below is a message from Kate

Dear children, parents, carers, staff, governors and many others from the Kingfisher Community, I would like to express my immense gratitude for all the incredibly thoughtful messages, well wishes, cards and gifts that I have been sent over the last few weeks. I have been astounded at the range of people who have reached out. Your kindness means a huge amount and has really helped me through what has been and continues to be a very challenging time.

I hope that you all have a restful, safe and happy Christmas with family and friends and very much look forward to seeing you all in the new year. I miss you all,

With love Kate

In Kate's absence Chris Slatter, Deputy Headteacher from Fitwaryn School, will continue to support us at Kingfisher.

Have a great Christmas Holiday

Lorraine

Sensory Pathway



Flamingo Class

Our Topic this term has been Celebrations and good times, this has included learning lots about Christmas and other celebrations that happen this time of year. We have covered 2 different sensory stories this term both learning about day and night, the first was The night box by Louise Grieg. In the night box a boy has a special box and when he opens it out floods the night, when he opens the box again out comes the day. As part of this story we have been developing our knowledge of object permanence and learning that just because we cant see something doesn't mean its not there. Our second sensory story has been Twas the night before Christmas, in this story we have been learning all about Christmas and getting ready for father Christmas to come.

In resonance board this term we have been learning to anticipate what is coming next. During these sessions we are learning to request more by banging on the board to the adult. Our favourite activity this term has been the coloured rice, we love it when everyone bangs on the board really loud and makes the rice jump up and down.

We have worked really hard in swimming this term, we are learning to move our legs independently of each other. We are all getting really good at kicking our legs and making a big splash. In Sensology we have been continuing to follow our Christmas theme, we have been learning to move our heads up and down to look at the coloured Christmas lights. In Sensology we have also been exploring lots of Christmassy smells, we all really liked the cinnamon smell, some of us even pressed our noses up against it.

Alicia, Kerryann, Sally, Emma, Katia



Toucan Class

Our Topic this term has been 'Celebrations and Good Times' and we have definitely made the most of all this season has to offer. We started the term by exploring Halloween. As part of Maths we have been working on object permanence and problem solving. Everyone enjoyed finding the spiders hidden in the pumpkins. It did get quite messy but that is all part of the fun. Looking for and hiding objects has been so popular that we explored it through art too. We covered pictures with things like rice, oats and shaving foam so that we had to manipulate a sensory item with our fingers to reveal the hidden picture beneath. Finding things was also big part of our Christmas Video and we hope you enjoyed as much as we enjoyed filming it.

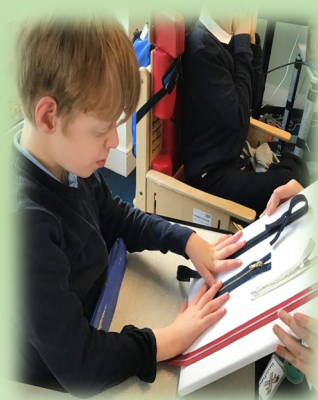
Toucan class have made lovely progress with mark making this term. It has been lovely to see this become a more popular activity with the group, hopefully it can develop into a lovely leisure activity too. Sticking paper down to cover the whole table to create a big blank canvas has been a big hit. We have been particularly proud of the increasing independence around this task.

As the term has continued our focus of course has been heavily on Christmas with seasonal phonics and sensory stories. Our Christmas Sound story has a strong focus on linking pictures to sounds and everyone has done so well. The story includes sleigh bells, which we knew would be a popular choice. However, the snoring parents and doorbells have also been a surprise hit with the class. As part of Christmas, we had a Christingle session where everyone got to explore the various items and make up a Christingle. You will not be surprised to hear that the cloves were by far the least favorite across the class whereas the sweets were very popular with some.

It has been great that this term we have had some opportunities for learning outside the classroom including trips to the Stonehill Community Garden, Millets Garden Centre and RDA. We are looking forward to some more opportunities in the new year. There have also been some particularly lovely moments in class as everyone has suddenly seemed to become so much more interested and aware of their peers. We are seeing some lovely friendships blooming, unprompted sharing and even some child initiated games happening. We had hoped that the bowl being used as part of one lesson was going to be used to find and hide objects. In actuality fact one student decided to hide themselves and were quickly copied by the rest of the group taking turns doing the same thing with their own bowls. A great moment for everyone.

We would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. Enjoy the rest Toucan Class and come back in January raring to go and have some fun with our new topic of Time Travel.

Take care, Tor, Julie, Maria, Sue, Lynette, Sarah and Sharon



Robin Class

It has been a very busy term in Robin Class. All of the pupils have enjoyed exploring our “Celebrations” topic. The pupils have enjoyed getting ready for Christmas- some terrific festive artwork has been created, which you will see when they are sent home with pupils at the end of term. In Sensory cooking, the pupils have enjoyed exploring the various ingredients, that are used to create Christmas cake. The pupils loved having the opportunity to explore the icing in particular. The pupils also used the pastry cutters to make exciting shapes. They all participated with great enthusiasm, which was lovely to see. We were also really pleased by the switch work that was taking place within this session... well done Robin class.

The pupils have loved participating in our Christmas Phonics sounds story. The pupils were all captivated by the sound of the sleigh bells. The sound of the ringing doorbell and the joyous carol singing, also served as firm favourites with the pupils. It was so pleasing to see how engaged all of the pupils were during these sessions... we have been so impressed by how focused they have been.

Our sensory story “A tale of Two Feathers” has prompted some great vocalising. One pupil loved listening to a narration from the story, which they were able to activate via the use of a switch. Each time they pressed the switch, they laughed uproariously, which was lovely to see. The pupils loved listening to the birdsong and were really engrossed by this charming tale of friendship.

Swimming has also served as a weekly highlight for the pupils. These sessions are hugely popular and it has been brilliant to see how well the pupils have been working, with regards to their own individual targets. Some excellent progress has been made during Physio sessions too, which has been wonderful to see.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas. We hope that you all have a great holiday and we look forward to welcoming Robin class back to school in the new year.

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



Core Pathway



Owl Class

What a busy term we have had in Owl Class!

We have enjoyed our topic, finding out about and celebrating lots of special times that are important to us and to others. We have explored Diwali, Bonfire Night, birthdays and, of course, Christmas! We have shared an abridged version of *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* by Jill Tomlinson which helped us to think about the dark in different ways – very important to us as Owls ourselves! This led us to notice night and day, and to explore light from different light sources. There have been some very loud sessions where we have explored sources of sound using musical instruments. We even made our own instruments from junk modelling.

We created Diya lamps for Diwali, fruit rockets and firework pictures for Bonfire Night. We celebrated birthdays by decorating cakes and our Christmas celebration is all wrapped up in our Owl Class Christmas Performance, which we hope you will enjoy when you see it.

Our second group of children have been able to visit the Community Garden and they have had a wonderful time pushing wheelbarrows and feeding the chickens, along with some of our older children. I hope we will send another group next term.



Owl Class continued

Owl Class children continue to make good progress with **Read Write Inc. Phonics** and are engaging enthusiastically with our daily sessions. Many of our children are showing a real interest in mark-making and reciting the rhymes that go along with each sound.

In maths, the children have continued with daily counting and have worked on developing subitising skills (knowing how many without counting). They have matched items that are the same and some have tried to find the difference between two numbers, using concrete resources to support them. We have had a focus on 2D and 3D shapes, exploring these in many ways and learning to talk about some of their properties in simple terms. Throughout all our work this term we have been learning to take turns and to express our preferences, likes and dislikes.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Rachael, Beccie, Nicola and Sidney.



Hawk Class

Our second term seems to have flown by, packed with lots of learning, fun and great memories. We have been incredibly lucky this term with gifts and donations of toys for Hawk Class to enjoy. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has contributed to this. Can we also ask that if you have a good clear out at home before Santa comes, that you think of us before you pass the toys onto a new home. Equally if you spot other families giving toys away on Facebook or social media sites, could you collect them for us. It really helps our learning and creativity to have lots of new and exciting toys and games to explore. A firm favourite this time has been the giant superhero action figures and the Batman dressing up outfit.

Hawk class really enjoyed Halloween activities, we all painted and decorated pumpkin pictures for a class display. We made scary, spooky monster biscuits to eat. Finally, some of us had a go at apple bobbing, it's not as easy as it looks and we all laughed a lot. Some children were very good at it and managed to catch 2 apples with their teeth.

We commemorated Remembrance Day in Hawk class with a variety of activities. We wrote some acrostic poems using lines, phrases and key words from other Remembrance poems that we had read. We also drew, painted and printed poppies. Some of our work was displayed at the Royal British Legion in Abingdon. There were lots of positive comments, particularly about our poetry. Another proud moment for all the staff in Hawk class was when the children took part in the 2 minute silence while watching the CBBC film to help them focus. They were completely quiet and respectful for the entire time, we were incredibly impressed.



Hawk Class

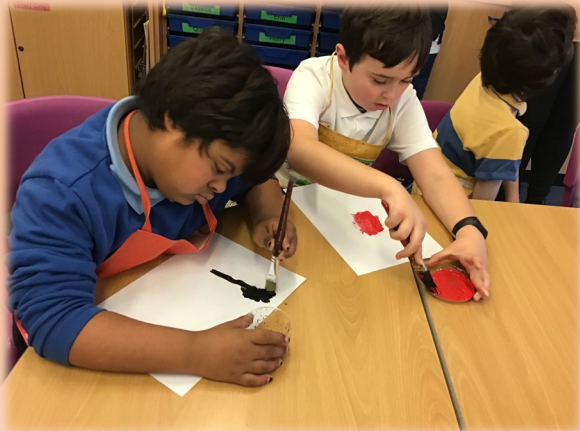
Hawk class have been busy cooking again this term. Our 2 favourites were coloured mashed potato and Bagel-based pizzas. Both, really good fun to try at home. It was quite a challenge to peel the potatoes and chop them with sharp knives. The children also found it tiring to mash all the potatoes afterwards too. Tasting the potato was tricky as the bright colours put you off, even the adults weren't sure but most of us had a go in the end. The pizzas were delicious and were quick to make, definitely something you should try at home if you get a chance during the holiday.

This term pupils have been visiting the community where they have helped with lots of jobs including 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. Their final project was to build a bug hotel which will hopefully be full of bugs and insects when we next visit the garden in the spring.

Some pupils have also been out on a trip with some children from other classes. They went to Millets Farm to explore the Christmas decorations and the singing reindeer. As you can imagine the singing reindeer were very popular with all of the children. Some of the other visitors commented on how well our children behaved and how good they were at sharing the push buttons to make the reindeer sing – well done guys, that's so good to hear.

We would just like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone in Hawk Class.

Lorna, Laura, Jo, Becka and Sophie.



Eagle Class

Term 2 is always a busy, but exciting term! We have squeezed in many lovely things around the normal lessons this term. Pupils completed some amazing art and poetry around Remembrance earlier in the term and our two School Councilors took them to the Royal British Legion to go on a display open to the public. We also had a special event for Buddies UK at Kingfisher School; holding our first meeting with a group of pupils from Fitzharry's School. Both schools had an amazing morning where we got to know each other through icebreaker games, made delicious pizza and had lunch together. We are looking forward to the next meeting, which will be at Fitzharry's School in January, and we will visit their art department and use some of their facilities.

This term, pupils have enjoyed playing badminton in P.E lessons and curling, boccia and bowling this week. In science, we have been learning about light and sound and we found out how we hear things. Finally, we played a fun 'name the sound' quiz, which was quite tricky. Our Christmas performance has been fun to create and linked to the light and dark topic. We read the story of A Christmas Carol and we made shadow puppets for the characters with a puppet theatre. The auditions for the parts were amazing with all pupils getting into character and using great character voices. Pupils voted for the best actor to perform the voice for each character. Hopefully, you will enjoy our performance of A Christmas Carol through shadow puppets, which has been filmed. We have been creative this term, making some lovely Christmas decorations and cards to take home. Last week, we had Christmas lunch in the hall with Albatross and Hawk Class, listening to Christmas music. We have raised money for charities such as Children in Need and Helen House Hospice, by walking laps of our field in our Christmas jumpers.

On a personal note, I have absolutely loved my time at Kingfisher School and love teaching Eagle Class. I will miss everyone as I take up a new position as SENCO at a Primary school in January. However, I know that they will continue to learn and develop new skills and independence with the Eagle Class team.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

María, Tess, Tina, Esther, Lisa and Sarah



Communication Pathway



Macaw Class

It has been a lovely term full of celebrations and of course lots of glitter! Macaw class has work really hard on the 3 celebrations across the term Halloween, Hannukah and Christmas. We started the term exploring light and dark, day and night and focus on light sources especially the ones related to Christmas. On Halloween we went trick or treating across the school and children really enjoyed engaging with other classes and dressing up.

This term everyone has really enjoyed cooking especially towards the end of the term when we made some Christmas tree cakes, gingerbread houses and Christmas cookies. In cooking our focus has been on choosing and everyone has done incredible choosing of their favourite sprinkles or syrups. Art has also been a favourite thanks to the lovely Leann, pupils have enjoyed creating some beautiful seasonal decorations especially Bonfire night.

Lots of our students have done great progress in swimming and PE showing incredible independence and confidence at performing more independently.

In Maths we have been exploring addition and sharing together with fractions and positional language. Pupils have really enjoyed the sharing part of the math's where we got to share different snacks to put in our lunch boxes and different ingredients to create our own pizzas. Pizzas also helped us learning fractions and this term where we used half and whole. Bonfire night sensory story "spark in the sky" has been the favorite out of all with all the sensory lights and jumpers.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!! See you all in 2023!!

Gal, Megan, Ellie and Olivia



Woodpecker Class

Woodpecker Class have had an excellent half term with lots of excellent achievements. Our topic this term was 'Celebrations and Good times' and we focused on Halloween, Bonfire Night, Hannukah and Christmas. We learnt lots about how these events are celebrated and created sensory experiences of each event so that we could all join in too!

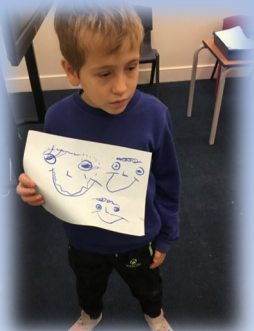
In Literacy this term we explored stories Funnybones, Sparks in the Sky, What happens at Hannukah and Little Santa. We focused on using adjectives to describe scenes as well as answering questions about the different texts. Some of us practiced our illustration skills this term whilst others practiced tracing, copying and staying in the lines when colouring. I am very impressed with everyone's Phonics work this term and has seen excellent progress from each and every child.

In Maths this term we practiced counting, subtraction, fractions, patterns and positional language. We have been applying the skills we learnt to everyday tasks which has supported the children in their understanding.

In Science this term we learnt about light sources and sound sources. Some pupils sorted photographs of light and dark/ day and night into categories whilst other children identified light sources in the immediate environment. When learning about sound sources we explored loud and quiet which, as you can imagine, got very very noisy and was lots of fun!

In Cooking this half term, we have been practicing making choices about which ingredients we want to use in our Cooking, We made latkes, Christmas cakes, dreidel snacks, chocolate apples and firework cookies. As part of this we focused on skills mixing, chopping and sprinkling. Lots of children are getting much more independent with their cooking skills! We have been getting into the Christmas spirit this term and had lots of fun preparing our Christmas video performance. We hope you enjoyed watching it! We also had a visit from Father Christmas, a Christmas party and participated in lots of Christmas craft! We hope you have a wonderful Christmas break and can't wait to see what next half term brings!

Katie, Amelia, Julie, Rebecca Eleonor, Leann



Penguin Class

Our Topic this term has been celebrations and good times. The pupils have really enjoyed learning about and experiencing Hannukah, Halloween, Bonfire night and Christmas.

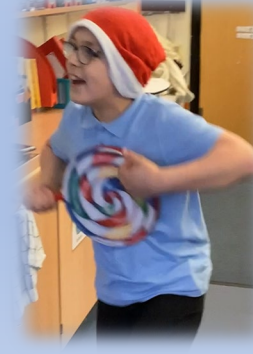
Within Storytime, the students enjoyed reading Little Santa, What happens at Hannukah, Sparks in the Sky and Funny bones. After listening to the story, the pupils enjoyed requesting props, describing scenes and characters from the story and constructing sentences. The pupils also enjoyed mark making sessions which included, encouraging to make marks through messy play, focusing on pencil control, tracing and copying key words from the story and writing a descriptive sentence from looking at the pictures in the story. Within Science lessons, we have been focusing on light, dark, day, night, light sources and sound sources. The pupils really enjoyed experimenting and playing with the light and sound sources, sorting items into categories depending on their light/sound features.

In cooking, we have been focusing on pupil's making choices, we have been making toffee apples, firework cookies, Menorah snacks, Latkes and Christmas tree cakes, encouraging the pupils to make their choice of toppings, sauces, coloured icing sugar, sides and sprinkles. Within Art sessions, the pupils have really enjoyed following instructions to make a masterpiece, such as hanging pumpkins, making and decorating salt dough Christmas decorations and Stars of David. Within PE, we have been practicing our dancing skills, and improving our ball handling skills through fun games, the pupils enjoy the sessions and look forward to it every week.

We have had a great last week celebrating Christmas as a class, our favourite moments were creating our Christmas play, our Christmas party and Santa visiting with presents.

We hope you have a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Jemma, Ali, Megan, Kim, Lisa, Eleanor & Leann



Heron Class

Happy holidays everyone, hope you're enjoying the crisp winter weather and aren't too cold! Some Heron pupils have loved exploring the ice when out and about at playtime. We've been keeping busy in Heron Class this term with our topic 'Celebrations and Good Times'. This second half term always proves a great time to focus on learning about different festivals and has allowed pupils to explore lots of notable events in their own and others' lives, from Halloween and Hanukkah through to fireworks and Christmas.

Our four texts that we have explored in literacy this term have given us a wealth of opportunities to explore focused communication using aided language boards. Pupils engaged well during our sensory story lessons and have built upon their comprehension of the story with associated mark making and sentence construction activities. Maths has also been positive with pupils achieving well, most notably in their work on calculation and sequences.

As ever, Heron Class pupils have wowed us with their progress in swimming and P.E. sessions; and back in class we have been pleased to see just how well their understanding in other non-core subjects has progressed. Congratulations to those pupils who have jumped into the pool or accessed deeper water for the first time ever.

Cooking and art have been fantastic this term not only for the marvelous work pupils have produced (and consumed!) but also for the brilliant communication that pupils have evidenced through the sessions.

We very much hope you enjoy/ed our Christmas production premiere this week and have a truly fantastic Christmas break,

From Amy, Teresa, Sarah, Becca, Leann and Richard



Transition Pathway



Albatross Class

We have finally made it to the end of Term 2 and as you would imagine, it has been a very busy term indeed. Our main focus has been the run up to Christmas and trying to fit in our rehearsals and Christmas activities alongside our normal everyday sessions. Students have worked so hard at rehearsing for our play and hopefully you will all enjoy their hard work.

The Enterprise Group have helped to raise money for both Remembrance and Children in Need by making delicious cakes to raffle and sell and the class also hosted a Bacon Roll Day which was extremely popular. The class have worked hard to make treats for the performance day and cards to take home. The Communication group has made decorations and we have enjoyed decorating the Common Room. We have enjoyed our story sessions and the songs that we have listened to and joined in with.

Our Topic work has focussed on 'Celebrations and Good Times' and we have looked at all the various times and ways that we celebrate throughout the year. Mostly, we have thought about the Christian celebration of Christmas and the birth of Jesus, although we have looked also at the Jewish celebration of Hannukah and compared this with Diwali.

We have continued to visit OXSRAD and Wheels4All, continuing with our efforts. Some pupils have had work placement visits to the local Budgens which will be resuming in the new year. Some of the class visited Radley Church to see the decorations and hear about the Christian celebrations of Christmas – notably the Nativity. We engaged in singing some carols and enjoyed our time there. Our Careers Advisor Maggie visited to talk with all the students about leaving school and some students had 1:1 sessions to talk about options.

We hope you all enjoy the Christmas Performance and can see all the hard work that students have put in to this. A special thank you to Michael John who made our play perfect with some great music!

Happy Christmas to you all! *Albatross Class - Leah, Mary, Gill, Sian, Sharon, Leann & Rachel*

