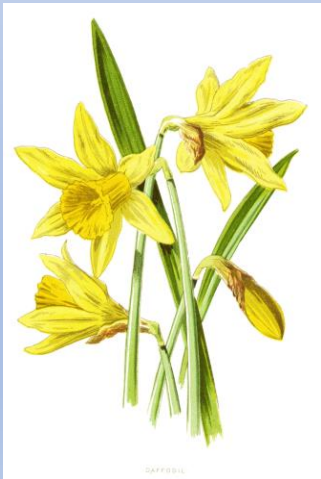




# Kingfisher Newsletter

31<sup>st</sup> March 2023



# Dear Parents and Carers

As we head towards the Easter Holidays it is time to look forward to some warmer weather and lighter evenings. We have several trips planned for pupils in the coming weeks and individual classes will be in contact to let you know more about these.

We have had a lot of exciting things happening in school this term. We had the Fire Service into school, all the pupils had access to this event and some were lucky enough to climb into the cab and sit in the crew seats. One pupil decided it wasn't time to go back into class and decided that he would like to show me around the engine. He also climbed back into the cab and tried to put on his seatbelt. This demonstrates clear decision making at its finest. We were hoping to have a tractor in school today, but that has been postponed to next term due to circumstances on the farm.

The major building work has come to an end, although there are still a few tweaks to be made. As you will be aware the new offices have been used since the beginning of November and the new pupils' rooms are now almost ready for occupation. We will be using this as an Independent Living Centre so that all Secondary aged pupils will have access to it at varying points of the year. They will be able to develop independent skills such as making drinks and snacks, using the washing machine, washing and drying dishes and hopefully bed making skills. The rooms will also be used regularly by the Post 16 pupils for making lunches, setting up coffee mornings/afternoon teas and developing enterprise skills. You will be able to see these rooms during the Coffee Morning planned for the end of April to celebrate both St Georges Day and the Kings Coronation.

We had a surprise visit from Dalton Barracks yesterday. They donated Easter Eggs for our pupils, so you should have a gift coming home with your child today, those pupils who are tube fed will receive an alternative gift from us. We also had another lovely surprise, one of our Health and Social Care students from Abingdon and Witney College's grandmother was 80 last week and asked for money so that she could spend it on our pupils, so you will also be receiving a gift from Helen too. I received a gift from Flamingo Class, which was delicious.



Parents of Pupils Year 8 and above

We are planning our Transition Information Event at the moment. The event will be held at Kingfisher School on Wednesday 24th May from 16:00 until 18:30, which is the same time that we offer parent consultations. We are very limited to the timings that we can offer as there are a number of outside providers and services that support this evening. To support you, there will be an opportunity for you to pick up your children from school and use our new Independent Living Centre to have a coffee and a chat with other parents to save waiting at home and then come back into school. Although you will be able to park on site, this will not be available until after the transport has left at approximately 15:15. so far, we have had the following providers and services confirm for the evening. Liz Bannister Kingfisher Family Advocate, Sarah Goss School Nurse, Maggie Careers, Local College Providers, Local Training Providers, Supported Internships, Oxford University Apprenticeship Scheme, Yellow submarine, Style Acre, HF Trust, Moving into Adulthood Team, DWP rep – benefits, OXFSN. It would help with setting up this year's event if you wouldn't mind answer a few questions here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TransitionEventFeedback2022> if you can't make the Transition Event at Kingfisher, you may like to attend the event at Fitwaryn on Wednesday 3rd May, the timings are the same.

Staffing Update

Kate is doing well and is making progress. Some staff went to say hello to her this week, and we finally managed to get together with Lorraine Green to say our farewells. Chris Slatter will continue to support us here at Kingfisher on a part time basis. Cathy Dennis will be starting full time employment with us as Teacher of Eagle Class next term. We have had some resignations from Teaching Assistants, who are leaving as they have been promoted and they will be able to use the skills they have learnt at Kingfisher to support pupils elsewhere. Others are leaving to finally travel after the pandemic. We wish them all well in their new careers and hope they enjoy travelling. We are hoping once they return they will rejoin the Kingfisher Family.

Dates for your diary

Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	First Day of Term
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Coffee Morning for St Georges Day and King Charles III Coronation
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Transition Evening
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Last Day of Term
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>INSET Day</b>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	First Day of Term
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Last Day of the Academic Year
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	First Day of New Academic Year

Have a great Easter Holiday

Lorraine



# Sensory Pathway





# Flamingo Class

Our Topic this term has been On the move. Our sensory story has been Blown Away by Rob Biddulph, in this story a group of friends all hold onto a kite and a big gust of wind blows them away to the jungle. During the story we have been creating the wind using a giant fan, we have been controlling the fan using a switch and learning to press it independently.

In both massage story and phonics, we have been continuing our topic of on the move. Our massage story this term is about a boy that gets on the bus, we all really enjoy the different movements and strokes used during the story. In Phonics we have been listening to the sounds different vehicles make and learning to identify them, most of us can quickly identify the car and plane noise but some of the quiet vehicles are trickier.

In sensory cooking this term we have been getting ready for easter and making chocolate easter nests. We have loved exploring all of the different ingredients, we have been using our hands to crush the Weetabix. Our favourite ingredient was of course the chocolate, we enjoyed smelling and tasting it. In Sensology we have been also been learning about easter, we have been exploring lots of sensory eggs and listening to the sounds of some baby animals we might hear this time of year. We have been working hard on our physio this term both in class and with the physio team, we have been spending longer periods of time in our standing frames and most of us can now do an hour which is fantastic.

At the beginning of the term we had world book day, it was lovely to see people dressed up. We enjoyed spending lot of time sharing our favourite books and some of us brought in our favourite book from home to share with friends. As part of our topic, we had an exciting visit this term from the fire service, we all really enjoyed looking at the colour of the engine and looking at the blue flashing lights. This term some of us have also been on a walk to Trinity Church to learn about the easter story. We really enjoyed all the songs and there was lots of different things to explore whilst we were there.

*Alicia, Kerryann, Sally, Emma, Katia*



# Toucan Class

Our phonics story this term has been Little Rabbit Foo Foo. We have been using it to work on our voice sounds and we have really enjoyed anticipating and filling the pauses during the story. The story has been popular not only for the sounds involved but also the props. Little Rabbit Foo Foo has a mallet for 'bopping' the forest creatures 'on the head'. We have discovered when offered the opportunity to bop staff on the head with an inflatable mallet Toucan classes hand eye co-ordination is very accurate.

In maths, we started the term exploring pattern. Matching patterns found in nature and making our own patterns by sharing attention with an adult and taking turns. We have done this making animals prints with paper and fingers print repeated patterns. It was lovely to see everyone gaining confidence in the activities as the term went on. We ended the term looking at movement as part of our maths and have had a great time playing with cars, ramps and car maps. Every single pupil loved the car play and we will be looking at having more opportunities of this kind of play moving forward as it was such a hit.

In art we have been really working on our cutting skills using scissors. We have made funny faces, leeks for St David's Day and some Easter crafts that we hope that you enjoy. Quite a few of Toucan class are very anti messy play so a mess free art task was a safe bet and was enjoyed. It has been lovely to see how focused everyone has been on this task.

We would like to say how proud we are of everyone's walking this term, everyone has improved and are more willing to explore the school and different equipment as part of our PE lessons. We are looking forward to putting this newfound confidence to work in the next few terms as the weather improves.

True to our topic of 'on the move' Toucan class have enjoyed some trips to Abbey Meadows, the park and the river to feed the ducks this term. Many thanks to the parents that have already offered to support us on our trips out next term to keep us 'on the move'. There are some more planned so please watch this space. Next term our topic is 'Myths and Legends' and we are going to be looking at some traditional fairy tales and in particular an adaption on sleeping beauty and the forest of thorns. Take care and have a great Easter

*Tor, Julie, Maria, Sue, Lynette, Sarah and Sharon*



# Robin Class

Our Topic this term has been On the Move and we have explored this both in school and through opportunities to visit places in the local area.

In Numeracy this term we have been focusing on patterns and anticipation games. Some pupils have been using their voice to say go, while others have been using switches and body language. Pupils have also been developing their interactions with objects and using instruments to make rhythm patterns too.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed participating in our sensory story sessions. In the story “Little Rabbit Foo Foo,” the pupils were introduced to a very naughty rabbit. This story prompted some enthusiastic vocalizing-little rabbit foo foo being turned into a goonie at the end of the story, served as a particular highlight.

In our P.E sessions, the pupils have made excellent progress with their individual physio targets. All of the pupils have shown impressive determination and we have been so pleased by all of their terrific work e.g. climbing up and down steps, pushing curling stones and participating in ready, steady...go activities. All the pupils have continued to work really well during their swimming sessions and swimming always serves as a popular activity for all of the pupils.

In Sensory Cooking we have been working on functional use of tools in the kitchen. We have explored the ingredients and then practiced pouring and scooping using measuring jugs and cups. Some pupils have also been helping with the clear up afterwards – stacking up the bowls and jugs and vacuuming up!

Tac Pac has incited some fantastic engagement from Robin class. The pupils find these sessions to be very relaxing and they are able to express their preferences for the different activities available. A particular activity that all of the pupils found to be relaxing was having a small ball rolled on their hands and arms.

We also enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. Some pupils dressed up while others brought their favourite books and we read them together. Last Friday, we had the opportunity to see a fire engine and to meet some fire fighters. One of our pupils happily sat up in the fire engine.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter.

*Siobhan, Eleanor, and the Robin class team*





# Core Pathway





# Owl Class

This term Owl Class have been so busy, with lots of new learning and exploration taking place. The children have been mark making, painting pictures using the tins of machinery and cars, they have been comparing different colours and using the primary colours to make different colours of their choice.

We have enjoyed our new topic this term 'Transport' learning lots about the different ways in which we can travel. There are many forms of transport and the children have been learning which transport would travel over land, in the air and by sea. They have seen and explored a world map and used toy cars, planes and boats to show how they would travel from one place to another. The children understand this concept well. They have also been learning about where things are in their local environment creating maps of their local area – school. They walked around school and took pictures of the different areas and then applied these pictures to the school floor map. We have read many stories this term relating to travel, *Maisy goes on holiday*, *the Gingerbread Man*, *Rosie's Walk* and many more. The children ordered the story of *Rosie's Walk*. As a class we have also discussed how we get to school and the type of transport we use. The children have looked at the different places they might travel, for example the park and have created a nice lunch that they would take with them. They also made their own sandwich and chose their own filling. We love to share stories as a class and the children enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day.

The children have had visits this term from the people in the local community, Abingdon Fire Brigade visited the school and brought in their Fire Engine. All the children loved it! They looked at the equipment, the Firefighters demonstrated how they worked, they showed the children the hose and how it operates, all of them sat in the Fire Engine and the blue lights and sirens went off! What a fabulous day. Farmer Bill then visited the week after and brought in his tractor! The children loved climbing up the big steps to sit in the chair and hold the big steering wheel.

In swimming we have been learning to float on our front and our backs and using a noodle to help us to create independence. We have also been learning to lift our feet up and to put them down. When swimming on our front we have been practising kicking our legs in the water. We do create quite a splash! Take Care, Best Wishes

*Jo, Beccie, Nicola and Sidney*



# Hawk Class

Without a doubt our favourite part of this term has been our visits to Abingdon Library. The staff have made us feel so welcome and thought our signing was amazing!! They had prepared lots of books to match our learning at school and some that were new and exciting. Harriet read us a story called 'I say ooh, you say ahh'! It made us laugh so much. We bought a copy for class and another one similar called 'I say boo you say hoo'. The children have all had a go at reading them for the class as the teacher too. When it was whole school assembly Charlie read the book, using brilliant voices to engage his audience. We are going to continue our visits to the library after the Easter holidays, these will be every other week from now on.

Thank you to those who sent in some junk modelling materials. The children have absolutely loved creating things and I know that some of you have received some of these at home. We will continue to need materials as we are going to continue this activity next term trying to be adventurous with different ways of connecting things such as split pins and staplers.

Art has been great fun too, The children have enjoyed using lots of different art materials for their paintings. They have also enjoyed making cards and exploring a variety of crafts. We were very proud of their Mother's Day cards and hope that you love their Easter cards. The children have also been creating maps together, trying to add simple features such as roundabouts, traffic lights, shops, houses, parks etc



# Hawk Class

Hawk class have been learning all about 'pushing and pulling' in science. The children were very quick to realise that there were also groups of objects that rolled, spun, bounced and slid. They were excellent at finding things in the classroom to sort into these groups and could accurately describe whether the objects needed a push or a pull.

Our maths has been challenging this term, we have been learning how to add and subtract using number lines, objects, calculators and even trying 'mental maths' where we have to try and do the calculations in our heads. We have also been learning about measuring time in different ways. I was very impressed with the children's knowledge of days of the week, months of the year and the seasons. Not only did they have a great understanding of how these worked their spelling of the days and months was pretty impressive too.

Last Friday the Abingdon fire station sent a fire engine and some staff to show us how it all works. We were allowed to sit inside the fire engine and look at how all the equipment works. We were quite surprised that the fire men and women had tea and coffee available on the fire engine. But then we realized that if they are out all day working hard to put out a fire that they would need food and drink to keep their energy levels up.

*Lorna, Laura, Jo, Becka, Sophie & Tess*





# Eagle Class

Eagle Class has done really well this term. They've been working hard and did their best, and I Ryan Louch, am typing this right now so I get to make this quick. Some of our class went to the Careers Fest. The Careers Fest is an event for young people to help them find out what they want to be in the future, in other words find their dream job.

One student wants to be a games developer, another student wants to do engineering and I want to be a professional Esports player and a full time streamer, but I don't know about the rest of the other students from Eagle class. The Young Person's Forum at the Science Park was about the schools from the Propeller Trust getting together to get to know each other. We didn't speak to the other schools, but some of Eagle class and Albatross class had a good time there and we went to David Lloyd's club as well.

Anyways back to subjects at school. We've been working very hard in swimming, 3 people finished level 4 and they are stars! In Maths our teacher was teaching us how to use a calendar, time telling, money and days, months and years. Eagle class was working very hard and everyone did amazing. We also did 'On the Move'. It's about visiting other countries, (not actually going there). Then we did cooking foods from other countries, we did taste testing when we did Spain. We are currently doing Australia and I have no idea what we are going to do later on, but I'll know soon.

Have an amazing Easter holidays. Just to say this took me nearly the whole day so give me credit pls.

*Ryan 'pupil', Rachael, Tess, Tina, Lisa and the Eagle team*



# Communication Pathway



# Macaw Class

Macaw Class has really enjoyed this terms topic: on the move (transport). We have been learning lots of different signs to do with the different transports and road security. In assemblies every week we have been emphasizing on one of the transport learning the different signs for them with the entire pathway. RWI continuous to be an incredible success. The majority of the children can identify at least 3 sounds and most picture card characters, while some can identify most of the set 1 characters and picture cards as well as write the letter. Our RWI sensory story has really supported the non-verbal children not only introducing the to RWI also developing their reading, choosing, identifying and mark making skills.

Cooking and Art with Leann has been incredible. Pupils have been really involved at creating all sort of transports using different materials and foods.

Swimming and horse riding have been amazing, and children have done incredible progress at it. Everyone feels comfortable on the pool now and enjoys swimming. Molly has been preparing us some amazing activities for PE

We have finished the term by doing some amazing easter activities and the favourite one was an easter hunt in the sensory garden where the children enjoyed hunting different eggs and then enjoying a chocolate easter tray.

Have a wonderful Easter Holidays

*Gal, Ellie, Megan, Olivia and Leann*





# Woodpecker Class

Woodpecker Class have had an excellent half term with so many 'wow' moments! This term our Topic was 'On the Move' with a big focus on transport. In Literacy this term we explored three texts; a fictional text, a non-fiction and a poem. We used colourful semantics to make sentences following the stories focusing on characters and verbs. As part of our mark making activity some of us used different tools to make vertical, horizontal and circular movements, whilst some of us drew vehicles with the support of a visual timetable. As always, we have been practicing our comprehension skills using aided language boards to answer questions and comment on what is happening throughout.

In Maths we had a focus on Calculation and Measure. We learnt about pairing using the key words same and different and became very good at pairing objects together. (You might even be able to get your child to pair the socks together at home.) As well as this we focused on addition. Some of us used objects to add one more to a group and some of us practiced number bonds to 10 and writing number sentences. This term in Measure we learnt about the passage of time using key words 'first, next, last, later' by sequencing pictures and daily routines.

In Topic this term we pretended to get on an aeroplane and visit a hot country and a cold country. We chose to go to Egypt and Iceland. We explored this through a sensory experience and commented on the key features of the specific country. We then compared them to one another concentrating on the similarities and differences between the two.



# Woodpecker Class

As part of our Science lessons, we focused on forces. Not only did we explore pushes and pulls in our immediate environment, but we also used vehicle toys and different surfaces to comment on the speed, distance and direction. We had a lot of fun pushing the vehicle toys down different ramps and seeing how far they travelled.

In Art this term we used different tools to make a variety of different vehicle art pieces. We made hot air balloons, traffic lights and cars to name a few. We also stuck with the transport theme in our Cooking sessions and made dishes to represent different vehicles. We made pizza cars on half a tortilla, taco boats and traffic light skewers using different fruits. We practiced our spreading, chopping, grating and mixing skills.

This term we have learnt about Easter through our cross curricular subjects and participated in Easter egg hunts, Easter cooking and Easter craft. The pupils' highlight was tasting the Easter eggs and commenting on the flavour.

We hope you have a wonderful break filled with lots of fun and making special memories. We are very much looking forward to a sunny summer term when we return.

*Katie, Amelia, Rebecca, Julie, Heidi and Leann*



# Penguin Class

Our theme this term has been On The Move (transport). The pupils have done well learning about different modes of transport, we have been learning about some characteristics of transport and learning the sign for each mode.

Within Storytime, the students enjoyed reading about characteristics of modes of transport, the poem Journey to School and our Easter story, Saving Easter. After listening to the story, the pupils enjoyed requesting props, role play with the story props, experimenting with mark making in different substances, matching rhyming words and constructing sentences. Within Science lessons, we have been learning about push and pull motions using vehicles over different terrains, experimenting with the motions, noticing the differences of the motions and speeds and instructing others to get the vehicles to a destination. We have also been learning more about fast, slow go and stop in musical statue lessons, which were thoroughly enjoyed, not just by the pupils. In Topic lessons, we have been learning about the differences between Iceland and Egypt (hot and cold countries), through sensory play and aided language boards.

In cooking lessons, we have been focusing on using tools that you would need in the kitchen, making traffic lights using crackers, spread and bell pepper, focusing on spreading. Pizza canoes using tortilla boats, cheese and sweetcorn, focusing on using a grater. Fruit cars, focusing on chopping and slicing apples, piercing them with toothpicks and grapes for wheels. For easter we have made hot cross buns, and chocolate easter egg tray bake, which was thoroughly enjoyed. Within Art sessions, the pupils have really enjoyed making masterpieces, focusing on representational pictures, such as cardboard traffic lights, easter chicks with paint and forks, tractors using sugar paper and airplanes. Within PE, we have been focusing on improving our balance through completing obstacle courses, also completing matching games such as bean bags, ball in buckets.

We hope you have a great half term, lets us know what you get up to on EviSense!

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





# Penguin Class

In cooking lessons, we have been focusing on using tools that you would need in the kitchen, making traffic lights using crackers, spread and bell pepper, focusing on spreading. Pizza canoes using tortilla boats, cheese and sweetcorn, focusing on using a grater. Fruit cars, focusing on chopping and slicing apples, piercing them with toothpicks and grapes for wheels. For easter we have made hot cross buns, and chocolate easter egg tray bake, which was thoroughly enjoyed. Within Art sessions, the pupils have really enjoyed making masterpieces, focusing on representational pictures, such as cardboard traffic lights, easter chicks with paint and forks, tractors using sugar paper and airplanes. Within PE, we have been focusing on improving our balance through completing obstacle courses, also completing matching games such as bean bags, ball in buckets.

We hope you have a great half term, lets us know what you get up to on evisense!

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



# Heron Class

Hi All, I hope this newsletter finds you well as we reach Easter. Our theme for the term has been 'On the Move' and we've had great fun keeping busy with activities ranging from programming robots and blindfold directions right through to Easter Egg hunts and playing with floats in the swimming pool.

Our three texts for the term were 'Let's Take a Trip' (Non-Fiction), 'Journey to School' (poetry) and 'Saving Easter' (Fiction). Pupils enjoyed all three and seemed to particularly enjoy wrapping up in fur blankets in our third story when engaging with sensory activities! As usual we also worked on comprehension tasks and mark making as well as adjectives on this occasion.

In maths we've been working on calculation (sequences and matching and pairing) as well as measures including time. Within this, pupils have been thinking about 1 more and less, number bonds to 10 and 20, sequencing numbers to 20 and 100, sequencing daily routines and even converting units of time e.g. how many months make a year.

Pupils have also enjoyed our transport themed cooking this term. Never before have I seen traffic light crackers with peppers and cream cheese so voraciously devoured! Most importantly, our cooking sessions have been a springboard for communication and pupils have responded well, displaying excellent requesting and commenting. Swimming has also seen our pupils make real achievement and progress and pupils were rewarded with floats and play on the very last week of term.

As hinted above, we really enjoyed our topic and science lessons this term. Pupils loved using blindfolds, bee-bots and small world play to build communication about directions (facilitated by aided language boards) and a highlight was seeing the fire-brigade visit school!

Whatever your plans for the Easter break, come sun or rain, we wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you soon.

*Amy, Teresa, Sarah, Becca, Verity, Leann and Richard*



# Transition Pathway





# Albatross Class

The Theme for Term 4 was '*On the Move*', which fits very nicely with the sixth form curriculum. As well as starting to think about and plan our next steps when we leave school, Albatross has started to think about travel training, which we plan to engage in during the warmer months. We have thought about and listed all the various types of transportation there is and thought about how different vehicles move and what increases speed etc. We have categorised the transport into land/water/air. We have started to look more closely at public transport and how we can use a bus and train safely.

The Communication group have focussed on a range of stories and BigBooks related to our termly theme and events, including using the local shops, signs and logos that we might see and road safety. Pupils have tried to develop their fine motor and practical skills with a range of tools. They have created some beautiful cards. For World Book Day, we thought about some classic stories and listened to an edition of Jack and the Beanstalk. Our Math focus this term has centred on Measure and pupils have practiced their measuring skills using a range of everyday equipment i.e. kitchen scales and measuring jugs.

The Enterprise Group made a plan at the start of term and have worked hard to follow this through. The group worked hard to shop for and host another Jacket Potato Café, and as this is turning out as such a popular event we are considering ways to develop this – watch this space! We have continued to visit OXSRAD and Wheels4All most weeks and also enjoyed a visit to a local park in the sunshine. Fitzwaryn pupils came over to Kingfisher for a friendly handball match in our hall. It was lovely to meet some new friends!

We have celebrated 3 birthdays at the beginning of March and so once again have enjoyed lots of cake! We found out a little about St Patrick. Did you know the shamrock represents the blessed trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit?



# Albatross Class

Some pupils visited Oxford College this term where they were shown around by a past Kingfisher pupil. Pupils from both Eagle and Albatross visited the Careers Fest at Kasaam Stadium where they were able to meet with a range of employers and training providers. A group attended the Young Persons Forum at the Oxford Science Park lead by our CEO Tom, to share opinions regards their wishes for the future. We also had a team represent the school at the Bowling Panathlon and the bowlers all received medals! Everyone had a super time! Teacher Jo arranged a Fire Engine visit so pupils could see inside the vehicle and some got to try on a Firefighter's uniform! We have also had our very own student Paramedic 'Deanne' in class with us for the past two weeks and this has been an opportunity for us to find out about the important work of the Paramedics. She has become very popular with the pupils and we will be sad to see her go but we thank her for all her support!

Lastly we have recapped on the story of Easter in preparation for the holidays. Pupils from both Albatross and Eagle attended the county wide Consumer Challenge Quiz at Unipart House to cheer on our team of 4. Great job everyone!

It is great to finally welcome the Spring and we look forward to all the exciting opportunities over the next few terms. We wish you all a very happy Easter holiday.

*Albatross Class - Leah, Mary, Gill, Sian, Sharon, Leann & Rachel*

