



Kingfisher Newsletter

10th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As usual we have had a busy term here at Kingfisher School. All the classes have taken part in a range of educational activities, with some classes having ventured offsite. Yesterday Eagle Class had a visit to Abingdon Museum in Market Square. They went to experience life during Victorian times and learnt about daily tasks that would be carried out in a typical day and week around the home. The pupils also found out what 'Afternoon Tea' was, which spurred them to have Afternoon Tea in school this afternoon. They drank their tea from teacups with saucers, and had some cake which was displayed on a cake stand. I was lucky enough to be invited too.

Thank you to all parents who supported at the Coffee Morning last week, we raised money for Kingfisher PFSA (Parent, Friends and Staff Association), if you would like to get involved please get in touch with Clare Johnson by emailing the office.

Kate update-many of you have asked how Kate is doing. I have been to see her and she is much more mobile than she was, she is now able to at least get around on the ground floor, however she is still not fully mobile. She has asked me to thank everyone for their continued best wishes. Chris will continue to work with us here at Kingfisher up until the start of the Easter Holidays.



We hope to run our St Georges Day Celebrations again this year and combine it to coincide with the Coronation of King Charles III. Once a date has been set we will communicate this with you via Arbor email.

Dates for your diary

Monday 20 th February	First Day of Term
Friday 31 st March	Last Day of Term (Easter Holidays)
Monday 17 th April	First Day of Term
Monday 1st and Monday 8th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 26 th May	Last Day of Term
Monday 5th June	INSET Day
Tuesday 6 th June	First Day of Term
Friday 21 st July	Last Day of the Academic Year
Wednesday 6 th September	First Day of New Academic Year

You will have seen the Term Dates for next academic year. We base our year on the Oxfordshire dates which most schools use within the county and allocate the INSET Days according to our Academy Trust. As you are aware, we have statutory training that our staff must receive in order to support your children and in our school we also have to deliver more complex training due to the needs of our pupils.

Have a lovely half term

Best Wishes

Lorraine



Sensory Pathway



Flamingo Class

Our Topic this term has been time travel, during this topic we have been learning lots about dinosaurs and robots. Our sensory story has been Boy and Bot by Ame Dyckman, in this story a boy finds a robot and they become good friends spending the day playing together. We have been exploring lots of different props that feature in the story including pinecones, balls to roll and apple sauce to smell and taste.

In Topic this term we have also been learning about the great fire of London through a sensory story. We have loved feeling the heat from the hot water bottle and splashing the water to put the fire out. Our favourite bit was definitely controlling the fan using a switch to create the wind. We have also been continuing the theme of the great fire of London into Sensology. We have been making fiery patterns using shaving foam, red and orange paint, we use both hands to mix the paint together.

In maths we have been continuing to learn about object permeance, we have been searching for dinosaurs hidden in different sensory materials. We have been practicing moving our hands and arms and have been learning to look at what we have found. In hand function we have been learning to hold onto pipe cleaners tightly and pull them out of tight holes.

In sensory cooking we have been making pizzas, we have loved exploring all of the different ingredients including cheese, flour and basil. Our favourite ingredient was the tomato puree, some of us liked the taste and other enjoyed smearing it across our trays. During our weekly sessions with the PE coaches we have been practicing moving our hands and arms to push balls and roll them down the ramps.

Alicia, Kerryann, Sally, Emma, Katia



Toucan Class

Our Topic this term has been 'Time Travel'. Our phonics story has been around a friendly robot that has helped us to time travel as we have helped it to learn things we are good at. The story allowed us to explore different examples of body percussion as well as the names of some body parts. These sessions have been a bit of a highlight of the term as we have seen all the pupils showing great progress in learning some of the responses. Everyone's favorite part of the story was the dinosaur stomp song, and it has been wonderful seeing all the pupils stamping their feet with the music. We had to practice section of the story quite a lot as it was almost always the section that was chosen to be repeated by the class. The story also helped us to explore body parts through the heads, shoulder, knees and toes song. Some of us are now consistently identifying some body parts. Well done Toucan Class.

Throughout the curriculum we have been doing various activities to explore colour. We have been working on choosing colours using objects and/ or symbols and then using the colours in motivating activities. Everyone has enjoyed making sensory colour bags with their choice of paint and glitter. This has been a clean activity. However, a much more exciting activities using colour have included mixing paint or splatting shaving foam 'cakes'. The latter has been a favorite, if extremely messy, activity within class. We have also been working on matching and naming colours using dinosaur toys where you must match the right colour to the right colour legs.

In our PE lessons with our coaches we have been working on our ball skills, our accuracy and targeting using both our hands and equipment is really improving. It has been great to see everyone heading to the hall with such enthusiasm to see what equipment will be out this week and how quickly everyone is willing to have a go even when presented with new things. Knocking balls off cones was a particularly popular activity for the class if not the staff who had to raise their game to Wimbledon ball boy standard. Our times in the big hall for PE and sensory circuits is really helping us develop our walking and there has been lots of progress in this area this term.

We hope that everyone has a lovely half term and comes back rested and ready for our new topic next term 'On the Move'.

Take care, Tor, Maria, Sue, Lynette, Sarah and Sonia



Robin Class

We have had another busy term in Robin Class. All the pupils have thoroughly enjoyed our “Time Travel” topic. In addition to enjoying little bears exciting expedition to the moon during our phonics story sessions, they have also loved learning about The Great Fire of London. The student’s showed good anticipation during both the story and song. We explored this further, during our Sensology lessons by exploring wood, looking at lights to replicate fire, listening to the crackling sound of fire as well as using the echo mic to hear “London’s burning...” It was wonderful to see how engaged the students were and these sessions prompted some excellent anticipation and lovely vocalisations.

In Phonics this term we have been listening to ‘Whatever Next’ and getting to know the sounds of the story. Our favourites have been the bubble popping and the loud noise as Baby Bear crashes down the chimney! The pupils have shown their preferences by laughing at the sounds and been able to choose a sound to listen to again from a choice of two.

In Sensory Cooking we have been developing our mixing skills and exploring different textures. Everyone has explored the smell, feel and sound of the ingredients and experienced them being mixed together and some pupils have been pouring and mixing before giving the food a taste - cereal and milk was very popular with the class!

This term our sensory story “Boy and Bot” was enjoyed by all the students. Some of the students liked feeling the pinecones. Interestingly, the apple sauce proved to be a popular smell with the students, however very few liked the taste. It was wonderful to see how some of the students were able to improve on their ability to press several switches. The robot dancing at the end of the story prompted a lot of smiles and laughter.

It was so lovely for Eleanor and I to have the opportunity to speak with you all on Wednesday at our parent consultation meetings.

Wishing you all a great half term.

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



Core Pathway



Owl Class

This term Owl Class have been busy, with lots of new learning and exploration taking place as well as meeting their new teacher Jo. Owl class have been exceptional and have transitioned well in to their new routine and getting to know the new adult in their class.

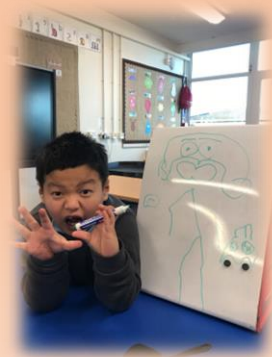
We have enjoyed our new topic this term 'Time Travel' learning lots about how things in our daily lives change and are never the same. We understand well that different things happen during our journeys throughout the day. We have learned that we are different now to how we were when we were babies, we know that we used to crawl and now we can walk, we know that we would cry when we wanted something and now we can communicate our thoughts and wants. We know that we used to make marks and now we can draw pictures. We have shared the story of, 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy which helped us to think about the different parts of the story and how certain things happened at different times. There is a beginning, a middle and an end. We sequenced the story using pictures and semantics to help us to build sentences, we explored the friends Baby Bear made during the story, Owl being one of them. Using paper plates we created our own Owls that are now on display. We thought about the kind of rockets we would like to have if we were to travel to the moon and we created our own and finally we explored the different types of food Baby Bear took to the moon and created a picnic of our own.

We have also been leaning about the parts of our body, naming hands, legs, feet, head etc.... We put together a skeleton puzzle, we drew around each other and labelled the parts of the body and we created skeleton biscuits. We very much enjoyed the story of, 'Funny Bones' and this helped us to understand what a skeleton is. We also explored X-rays of the human body. In maths we have been exploring number, quantity and biggest and smallest. We have ordered numbers and know which is the biggest number and which is the smallest number.

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

The highlight of Term 3 for us has been the class play. We were so disappointed that we couldn't perform it before Christmas because so many of us were poorly. However, we have done it!! The children were amazing, listening for their go, learning their lines, remembering their acting and looking after each other. It was made even more special by so many of our parents and family members coming along to support us. It was great to have you there and I am sure that you will agree that the whole class were spectacular. Quite a lot of photos were taken, so after half term we could send some pictures home if you would like a keepsake.

We had hoped to visit Abingdon library this term but have reorganized this for next term. We are hoping to go to the library, every other week, on a Tuesday afternoon in the minibus. If you would like to be involved and meet us there, we would love to see you. We are aiming to be there at 1.30. We are also going to be able to borrow some books to take back to class as well. If you would like your child to have a library card, we can help with that. Just get in touch and we will tell you more about it.

PE has been a real challenge this term. We started with some tricky gymnastic positions and when the children had mastered those our PE coaches made the challenge even more difficult by encouraging the children to recreate the positions on PE apparatus. They have worked very hard at this and we have had some impressive results. Children who couldn't jump off apparatus the last time we did gymnastics have been leaping off while making 'pencil' and 'star' shapes. Again, it has been very pleasing to see the children working with different partners each week and helping and supporting each other.



Hawk Class cont.

Hawk class have been learning all about body parts in science. They have all been very confident in naming parts of the body and have even been naming the more unusual parts such as 'shins', 'thighs' and 'knuckles'. Some of the children had a go at naming our organs as well and then learning whereabouts inside our bodies they are. We then moved on to learning about animal body parts and considered which were the same and which were different. Lastly, the children learnt about some new animals that live in Australia and labelled their body parts. Ask them if they can tell you about 'wombats', 'kookaburras' and 'dingos'.

In Maths we have had great fun measuring everything. We have measured using cubes, bricks and rulers too. We have compared lots of classroom objects and resources to see which are tallest and shortest and even measured all the children and adults too. We have also had some problems to solve – how do you measure a curly worm or snake? This was difficult because we couldn't bend the rulers, do you know how to do it?

One of the most exciting activities in class this term has been the introduction of the new 'Read, Write, Inc.' reading scheme. All the children have had a go with lots of new resources and have been so enthusiastic and keen to read. Even the staff team have been surprised and delighted at how well the children are doing. Those children that are free readers will get their opportunity to explore new books when we go to the library.

Lorna, Laura, Jo, Becka and Sophie.



Eagle Class

Eagle Class have been really busy this term, and I, Jack have to write this part of the newsletter. The worst part was I forgot most of the things we've been doing, so bare with me if your child says something different that hasn't been put into this newsletter, ok? Ok, now we're even, I think it's about time I write about what we've been doing because why not?

As you may have been aware of, we've been to Fitzharrys for our Buddies UK thing... I don't really understand it, but we did it. We made different creatures out of clay, including a rabbit and a potato with a head (mine) amongst other creatures. The best part was the cake at the end (I'm sure you can relate.) At P.E, Molly's been working us real hard with the exercises she's been teaching us. Everyone did super, especially student X (you know who you are) who perfected the James Bond. On a personal note, I haven't seen the James Bond movies, so I'll get him to tell me all about it.

In BWRI, we've been looking at the book "Wonder". It's about this boy with a condition. It's sort of entertainment but tiring because our teacher keeps talking about it, but she's doing a fantastic job at teaching us how to express our words and writing a letter to August. I'm just waiting for the next character introduced to be named "September". In Maths, most of us have been working on the phrase "RUCSAC". Our Maths crew have been working hard with their math as well as improving each and everyday. Well done to them, and well done to Cathy for teaching us the 'RUCSAC' phrase. The best part is, it's not even an actual RUCSAC, it's just a saying. 'RUCSAC' stands for Read, Understand, Choose, Solve, Answer, Check and helps us solve word problems which can be tricky.

Swimming has been eventful, as everyone's been working hard on their front crawl, breaststroke, backstroke, and even trying new skills, such as synchronized swimming. Everyone did pretty well.

Thanks for reading everyone, I bet you \$50 you made it to the end of our page, if you didn't, you get a sticker for trying. Have a great holiday and I hope you have an awesome day. Now if you'll excuse me, I need to raid my father's fridge.

-Jack and all of the Eagle Class Team.



Communication Pathway



Macaw Class

What an incredible term we have had in Macaw Class. Our topic this term has been time travel and the of the highlights with they have been our sensory stories. All of us have really enjoy Winnies dinosaur day and have had great times having a turn being Winnie. Roar was also a really great sensory poem full of dinosaurs in which Macaw class really enjoyed pretending to be dinosaurs.

Art has been great this term with Leann. The pupils have really enjoyed creating a student size paper mache dinosaur collectively with the pathway. Cooking was also really successful, and the dinosaur cookies were definitely the favourite ones of both adults and pupils. Everybody is doing amazing progress in RWI and they are all really enjoying Maisie's story that all together are creating using the read write inc picture cards. Macaw Class can now identify all the picture cards related to the sounds "m, a, s, d" and are more than ready to start with our new sounds for after half term. We have been using the interactive board to do some writing and we have seen some outstanding writing skills from some and some spectacular mark making skills from others.

We have really enjoy exploring the lightroom more this term and creating some sensory activities for the pupils to explore. Macaw Class really enjoys PE with our coaches and we have seen great progress in their independence. Swimming has also been a success and Macaw Class got great feedback from Angela. As every term, big thank you to our lovely Clare for her incredible music sessions in which the pupils are participating more and more vocally. By the end of the lesson the class makes honor to the name Macaw.

Have a wonderful half term

Gal, Ellie, Megan, Olivia and Leann



Woodpecker Class

Happy end of term everyone! Woodpecker Class have had an excellent half term full of hard work and lots of fun. This term our topic was 'time travel' and we decided to travel back to the land of dinosaurs.

In Literacy this term we explored a fictional text, a poem and a non-fiction text. The stories we focused on were ROAR, Winnies Dinosaur Day and Dinosaur Explorers. We practiced adjectives this term and learnt to describe characters using colorful semantics. We continued to practice our mark making skills by tracing, copying and writing patterns and shapes. For Phonics we have continued to follow the Read, Write, Ink programme and have all been making excellent progress against our targets. I was very impressed when I completed assessments at the end of term!

In line with our Topic this term, the children took part in a project which involved them working together to make a dinosaur. The children developed many skills by gluing, mixing, sticking and painting. As part of our D.T/ Cooking sessions we made fossil biscuits, snacks for dinosaurs to make them strong and dinosaur eggs using rice crispies. The children worked hard to follow visual recipes and develop their skills using different utensils.



Woodpecker Class cont

In Science this term we learnt about the human body. We practiced labelling different parts of the human body and using them in different ways. E.g. waving our hands/ stretching our legs etc. We then looked at the body of a dinosaur and tried to identify similarities and differences between the two.

In Maths this term we focused on comparing measures. We learnt about weight and length. Some of us explored weight through play using balancing scales and the terms heavy and light. Others found items in the classroom to compare and identify which item was the heaviest or lightest.

We had some special birthdays in our class this term and enjoyed celebrating as a whole class. We tasted birthday cake, wore our party hats and even took part in some fun party dances. I must say that Woodpecker Class are very good at doing the hokey cokey! I hope you all have a well rested half term. We are looking forward to another exciting term ahead which plenty of hard work and lots of fun!

Katie, Amelia, Rebecca, Julie, Leann



Penguin Class

Our Topic this term has been Time Travel. The pupils have really enjoyed learning about Dinosaurs, it has been really fun, especially during role play sessions!

Within Storytime, the students enjoyed reading about facts about Dinosaurs, the poem Roar and Winnie's Dinosaur Day. After listening to the story, the pupils enjoyed requesting props, describing scenes, emotions and characters from the story and constructing sentences. The pupils also enjoyed mark making sessions which included, encouraging to make marks through various markable objects to find a picture of a Dinosaur, 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 identifying and labelling body parts of a human and dinosaur, observing and identifying the similarities and differences, the pupils especially enjoyed playing body part bingo with a small group.

In cooking lessons, we have been focusing on pupil's developing skills needed within cooking, such as chopping, draining and mixing with both spoons and fingers. We have been making Dinosaur snacks for an Herbivore, fossil biscuits and rice crispy eggs. Within Art sessions, the pupils have really enjoyed following instructions to make a masterpiece, such as dinosaur paper plates and making a statue of a dinosaur, with the communication cluster. Within PE, we have been practicing our dancing skills, focusing on body parts, and improving our balance through completing obstacle courses, the pupils enjoy the sessions and look forward to it every week.

The pupils have really enjoyed attention bucket this term; it is our favourite part of the day. The pupils have enjoyed taking turns to make a volcano erupt, making their own Dinosaurs and engaging in bucket time.

We hope you have a great half term.

Jemma, Ali, Megan, Kim, Lisa & Leann



Heron Class

Hi All, I hope this newsletter finds you well at the end of our first half-term of 2023. As a class we've had a brilliant time working on our topic dinosaurs, an obvious favourite for many of our young people.

Our three texts for the term were 'Winnie's Dinosaur Day', 'ROAR' (poetry) and 'Dinosaur Explorers' (non-fiction). Pupils loved all three, engaging with sensory activities, character descriptions, comprehension tasks and mark making accordingly. Associated communication activities – such as dinosaur hunts - were also a success for our young people who were keen to engage in all things dinosaur!

Pupils have also impressed staff with their progress in numeracy. Our initial focus was measurement and weight. Pupils demonstrated that they were capable not only of comprehending and sorting between heavy and light but in some cases also ordering objects by weight or measuring weight using non-standard measures (i.e. counters). In later lessons pupils also demonstrated growing familiarity with other comparative language e.g. big/small, long/short and in our number and place value lessons we made good progress with ordering and sequencing.

Stepping away from core subjects, cooking has been a real hit this term. We have adopted a revised lesson format which has promoted greater communication opportunities for pupils – and thanks also to food as an incentive - we've all very much enjoyed and achieved well in the sessions. P.E. and swimming have similarly continued to be successful with all pupils making progress from swimming widths independently to achieving tucks, turns and glides!

A major focus this term has been our science. Pupils have impressed us with their biology knowledge, demonstrating understanding of not only human body parts but also features of animals, and sorting between the two.

Whatever your plans for the half-term break, we wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you soon.

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



Transition Pathway



Albatross Class

This term our Topic work has focussed on 'Time Travel' and, accompanied by the Dr Who theme tune, Albatross has travelled back in time and had a look at different and contrasting historical times – beginning with the Jurassic Period. We later found out that the telephone was invented during the Victorian era and we had a look at pictures and a selection of actual mobile phones to see the changes over the past few hundred years (the 90's version was massive!). This linked nicely with looking at 'Life in Modern Britain'. The class also looked at and thought about some other famous figures in history such as Robert Burns (author of 'Auld Lang Syne' and of course, Martin Luther-King). We have thought about the Chinese New Year – *Year of the Rabbit*, and recapped on how this is celebrated. We also enjoyed our very own Chinese meal in our decorated Common Room.

This term the Enterprise Group have supported the Big British Bird Watch, creating posters and bird feed lard bombs to sell during the colder months. The group hosted an ever popular Jacket Potato Café which is helping to raise funds to purchase a professional Karaoke machine for the school. The Communication group have focussed on a range of stories related to our termly topics and engaged with topic related activities.

We have continued to visit OXSRAD and Wheels for All most weeks. Pupils have worked in the café at OXSRAD serving the customers and we have had some pupils work each Thursday morning at Budgens. Students that will be leaving us this year have begun to complete their college applications and think about work experience placements. We will be visiting various places of work. One of our class members had her 19th birthday and we celebrated with delicious cake! Finally, we are looking forward to consolidating some of our Time Travel learning with a visit to the Natural History Museum in Oxford to look at the Dinosaur bones and artefacts of the past. We have a birthday during half term – Happy 18th Birthday

Leah, Mary, Gill, Sian, Sharon, Leann & Rachel

