



# Kingfisher Newsletter

26th May 2023

# Dear parents and carers

We have had a wonderful half term here at Kingfisher and as you will know we have been using the theme Myths and Legends to drive our curriculum. The pupils have been listening and reading stories and fairytales and some classes have been writing their own versions of the stories. I was lucky enough to be presented with a fairy twizzle stick from Toucan Class, I also had a fairy on loan which I did return to their garden. Macaw Class have asked me to look after one of their magic beans, I must say I have even impressed myself..... one that it is alive, and two how much it has grown. It is a shame I can't grow things at home.

There has been regular visits off site to places like Abingdon, one of the regulars being the library and we have also had various people in to support us in the usual way too. Dance lessons are always a hit and Gina has come back into school to support us when Bella isn't available. It was great to see Hawk Class dancing to Tina Turner's 'Nutbush City Limits'. The pupils really had rhythm and style, ask them to show you their moves when they get home.

Today we had a visit from Farmer Bill from Peachcroft Farm. As you can see from the photos below Toucan Class had an amazing time, I also caught the end of Hawk Class visit too. All classes had the opportunity to see the tractor and get on board if they wished, I only managed to catch two classes whilst I was there.

The St Georges' Day-May Day-Kings Coronation celebration was a great success. The weather stayed kind and we managed to get in before the rain started. It was great to see parents, carers, friends and family in visiting us. The next opportunity to come in will be sports day, you have already had the information about the day.



The transition evening on Wednesday was a great success, there were lots of external agencies and support from our staff team. I would encourage you to attend these event every year as the information and opportunities can change.

The SEN Sessions at Didcot Wave have been made available again, this time it is at 5:30-6:30 on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June. This is a special session to encourage whole families to access the pool together.

Talking of swimming..... Some of you will know that I am a keen sportswoman. I have had an operation on my knee that will keep me out of running and cycling for a while, so thought I would challenge myself to do something a bit different this year rather than the park runs and Triathlons I usually do. I am taking part in a 2K up stream river swim to raise money for the PFSA. This is going to place on the Henley Regatta Rowing Course on 25<sup>th</sup> June at 4am.... Yes 4am. There is a link to donate below and there is also a poster being sent out with this newsletter to share with your friends and family. If anyone fancies joining me, let me know! [https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kingfisher-pfsa?utm\\_term=wEEV8vkPm](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kingfisher-pfsa?utm_term=wEEV8vkPm)

**Staffing Update**

Kate is continuing to make progress and we have Chris working with us on a part time basis to cover her absence.

**Dates for your diary**

<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>INSET Day-NO PUPILS</b>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	First Day of Term
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Parent Consultations
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 half term holiday

*Lorraine*

# Sensory Pathway



# Flamingo Class

Our Topic this term has been myths and legends. Our sensory story has been a forest of thorns, which is an adapted version of sleeping beauty. We have really enjoyed this story and have loved exploring all of the props. When the princess pricks her finger on a spinning wheel we have been practicing stretching out and using our pointy finger. In Sensology we have been continuing looking at our story forest of thorns, exploring leaves from the trees and listening to the sounds of the forest.

Our massage story this term has been little red riding hood, Lots of us find the bit where the big bad wolf gobbles up little red riding hood very funny. In topic this term we have been learning about St George and the dragon, we learn about how sad everyone was when the dragon was eating everyone and how happy they are after St George slays him.

In Sensory cooking we have been making hummus, We have been exploring all of the ingredients and smelling all of the different spices. An adult adds all of the different ingredients to the blender and then everyone takes it in turns to press the switch to turn it on. In PE this term we have been getting ready for sports day, we have been practicing lots of different sports including rolling balls down the ramps to fill up the buckets and using both hands together to hold onto large balls. We have been working hard in VI group this term, we have all been doing really well focusing on different lights and some of us have been reaching out our arms to play the instruments.

At the beginning of the term we had lots of fun celebrating the coronation of king Charles and May day. We all loved the May Pole dancing and everyone did really well holding on to the ribbon whilst we danced round in the circle. To celebrate the Coronation, we all had fun making crowns and had lots of fun showing them of to everyone. Later on in the term we were lucky enough to have a visit from music for autism, we all loved this and loved playing our instruments along with them.

*Alicia, Kerryann, Sally, Emma, Katia*





# Toucan Class

We have had lots of fun this term exploring different traditional tales. In 'Jack and the beanstalk' we especially liked searching for the chicken and egg in our sensory box and listening to the sound the chicken makes. Exploring the forest with our horse and all the fragrant plants and leaves was a favourite in our sensory story 'Forest of thorns' and we all liked watching the fairy dust floating down as the fairies danced around. Our phonics story 'The Princess and the pea', focusing on alliteration, provided lots of smiles and we practiced the 'p' sound. We particularly enjoyed exploring the princes' pink palace and trying on his crown.

As part of our topic work, we painted castles and decorated some wooden fairy doors in Art, which we placed around our school sensory garden. We made our own special fairy garden with herbs in to place in the sensory garden. One of the fairy twizzles from our garden we gave to Lorraine to help her bean grow tall. During our cooking sessions, we practiced our spreading skills by decorating fairy cakes and making colourful fairy bread with butter and sprinkles. These formed part of our end of topic special fairy picnic.

We have continued to work on our physical skills and are all working hard on our swimming targets. We have all been very focused and engaged in our weekly PE sessions and we have been practicing our skills for sports day next term. We are becoming very good at boccia and curling now and the ball slide, which involves pushing balls along a rope, is also a firm favourite. During our weekly dance sessions with Bella we have enjoyed moving around the room with colourful ribbons and scarves waving around us. Queen has been a particular favourite choice of music this term.

We have enjoyed some special events as well this term. Our whole school celebration for St Georges day along with the King Charles' Coronation was lots of fun. We had an amazing maypole session with Gina, which we all participated enthusiastically in and made us smile a lot. We also enjoyed a wonderful session with a group of musicians playing woodwind instruments and we loved being close to the instruments and listening to them as they were played.

We hope you have a lovely half term week and we look forward to an equally exciting topic next term 'In the Garden', involving growing our own plants.

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



# Robin Class

It has been another busy term in Robin class. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Coronation/ St George's Day celebrations. The students loved having the opportunity to participate in Maypole dancing. All the students were very enthusiastic- as they are in our weekly dance sessions with Bella.

Our favourite phonics story this term has been "The Button Book" by Sally Nicholls. The students loved listening to the different sounds from the switches, but the class's clear favourite was the switch with the raspberry blowing sound. This resulted in lots of smiles.

In numeracy this term the class have enjoyed experiencing counting songs together and have also been working hard on their early numeracy skills. We have been focusing especially on fine motor skills – posting objects through slots and using our hands or eyes to make choices and answer questions. Due to the beautiful weather recently we have had plenty of opportunities for outdoor learning – experiencing the sights, sounds and textures of being outside in different weather. Some of us have been working on physio and fitness by walking around the field while others have been listening to stories and socializing as a group. All the students have been working so well in their swimming sessions. Some excellent physio work has taken place and we have been so impressed by their hard work and determination. In PE, the children have been working on activities, in preparation for our upcoming Sports Day!

Some of our students have been looking at different jobs, that people around our school do e.g. visiting the school office and watching our new site managers as they undertake different repair jobs around the school. They loved watching Paul assemble our new swing.

Wishing you all a great half term,.

*Siobhán, 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 different materials to make dragons, finger puppets of either a Prince or Princess and reading lots of stories about Mythical Characters.

We have enjoyed our new topic this term 'Myths and Legends' learning lots about different Mythical creatures like Dragons. The children have explored Dragon eggs as one was left behind in Owl Class. The children have been learning to understand that some creatures and characters are from stories that come from a long time ago when Mummy's and Daddy's would tell their children stories that came from their imagination. The children really enjoyed reading the story of Zog and learning about all the things the Dragons needed to do in order to complete Dragon School. In DT the children used different materials to make their own Dragon and they have been put on display in the classroom. The children have also enjoyed the story of The Worst Princess. They made Prince and Princess characters and used lolly sticks to support their puppets. The children very much enjoyed playing with them. Recently the children have read the story of The Princess and the Frog, they have learned about the life cycle of a frog in science and created frog hats in which they had to order the life cycle of a frog. In RWI the children have been working incredibly hard on their phonics and learning set 2 sounds, the children have been reading the Ditty books and we are so proud of the progress they are making. In maths the children have become secure in their number bonds to ten and are also now confident using the inverse take away from 10. The children recently have started to learn about halves and quarters of an amount or object.

The children have had visits this term from the people in the local community, and Owl Class attended Music for Autism, they thoroughly enjoyed it and danced with the ribbons or joined in by shaking the shakers they were given. Some of Owl Class were even helping with the position of Chief Conductor. We also enjoyed our Coronation Celebration out on the field, we had so much fun! We love to zoom around the playground and use all the equipment now that the sun has been shining. 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 have also been exploring the deeper end of the pool lately and the children's confidence has blossomed.

*Jo, Tamar, Nicola and Sidney*



# Hawk Class

Term 5 started with lots of Thank you cards. We made and sent cards to the Firemen and women who came to visit us at the end of term, we had so much fun exploring the fire engine and all its equipment. We had delicious Easter Eggs donated to the school for all the children which needed a great big thank you card as well. Lastly, a very kind lady donated 5 gorgeous dolls who she had knitted amazing outfits for. We shared these with our friends in Owl class, we have all really enjoyed playing with them, especially taking them for rides in the buggy.

Hawk class have been lucky enough to continue visiting the library on some Tuesdays. You would be so proud of them. Their behaviour has been brilliant and they have been so polite and helpful to others at the library, also remembering to say thank you when people have held the doors open or helped them find a book.

When we are not visiting the library on a Tuesday afternoon we have been cooking. Our first dish was pizza, using bagels for the base and adding our favourite toppings. Then we had a go at a dessert pizza with chocolate spread, marshmallows, sweets and sprinkles. Some of the children were a little worried that all those sweet things would taste 'funny' on a pizza – imagining that we were going to add them to a normal pizza! Once they had tried the dessert pizzas, they enjoyed them so much they wanted to have another go – definitely a firm favourite now.

Another highlight in Hawk class has been learning about and celebrating the King's Coronation. The children took part in lots of learning activities about the King, his family and the Coronation, the art and craft activities were their favourite. It was also great to see so many of our friends and families at school to share the celebrations with us.



# Hawk Class

Angela has been so impressed with all of the children in the pool this term. She has seen so much progress and is so proud of the children. Angela says that she cannot believe how hard the children in Hawk class have been working to try and get their certificates.

In maths we have been learning all about 3D shapes and trying to find similar shapes in the classroom and outside too. We have been looking at corners and sides and trying to describe the shapes that we are exploring. We have also been using them in our art lessons. We have been learning about an artist called Ben Nicholson who uses lots of shapes in his pictures. We have experimented with using the shapes to print and having a go at drawing the shapes ourselves in pens, pencils and paints. As well as trying to use the shapes in our pictures like Ben Nicholson we have been trying to make different shades of the same colour by adding black paint to make the shades darker and white paint to make the shades lighter. The children have really enjoyed this activity and are getting very good at the lighter shades.

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





# Eagle Class

Looking back through the photographs of the term, it makes me realise how much we have achieved in six weeks!

Our theme has been Myths and Legends and we have enjoyed exploring the Ancient Greeks and Egyptians. Some of the students had a go at writing their own Greek Myths and the results were fantastic! In Maths we have been exploring calculations and fractions and using our knowledge in practical learning opportunities, for example looking at the cost of everyday items.

In Science we have been exploring the properties of living things. We conducted an experiment to cultivate yeast and applied our findings in Food Technology; cooking both a traditional loaf and soda bread. Some of the students had to work without any physical help from staff and it was wonderful to see them be so independent in their learning.

Now the weather is getting warmer we are enjoying learning outside of the classroom. We have started growing plants in our outdoor area, been practising for sports day and the enjoying Percy Jackson and the Lightening thief as part of RWI beyond group in the glorious sunshine.

Have a lovely break, see you next term

*The Eagle class team.*





# Communication Pathway



# Macaw Class

What an incredible term we have had in Macaw Class. With our theme being myths and legends, we have focus more on old fairytales. From potions/stews to growing beans and king and queens, Macaw Class has really enjoyed this term and taken the opportunity that the weather has provided us to be outdoors.

We have had lots of opportunities to explore growing in our sensory garden where we have replanted some of our beans, the rest have been donated to other classes and Lorraine and Rachel which have made us proud on how well they have taken care of them. At the same time the beautiful weather has provided us with lots of opportunities for outdoor learning and some of our subjects have been transferred to our small garden where we have done lots reading, math's and sensory play. RWI still is one of everyone's favourite lesson, staff included and the pupils keep showing amazing progress week after week. Some of our pupils have more from identifying sounds from 2 to 3 letter choices while some others can identify the entire set 1. Writing has been a big improvement where everyone has show purposeful mark making/writing comparing to last term. Our RWI story keeps being the favourite part and pupils each week enjoy more and more learning different vocabulary and exploring the objects of reference.

Leann has provided children with incredible opportunities to develop their imagination in art and have created some incredible art works my personal favourite one being the Castles with growing grass underneath. In cooking they have learned how to use different utensils introducing also some new and unknow utensils and everyone has done incredible at tasting or smelling their creations.

A big thank you also to Clare for always brightening our week with incredible music lessons which students absolutely adore and also our PE coaches Molly, Chloe and Jess for such a fun and active PE lessons, our pupils have definitely enjoyed the opportunity of throwing being allowed.

*Gal, Megan, Marie, Jamie and Leann*



# Woodpecker Class

Woodpecker Class have had an excellent half term with so many 'wow' moments! This term our Topic was 'Myths and Legends' and we decided to focus on traditional fairytales. In Literacy we focused on 3 texts which included a fiction, non fiction and poem. We used sensory props and aided language boards to comment on Jack and the Beanstalk, Story Stew and In the Castle. As well as mark making, we focused on scenes within the story and following 2 or 3 word combinations to find specific pictures. E.g. Find me the purple castle/ find me the big purple castle. In Maths this term we learnt about patterns, sharing and fractions as well as geometry and positional language. It has been incredible to see so many of the children applying their mathematical skills to everyday situations to problem solve.

In Science this term we explored different materials and focused on classifying and sorting into groups based on different categories. E.g hard and soft. Our thematic learning has been about changes over time. Whilst studying Jack and the Beanstalk, we planted our own beanstalks and have been observing and commenting on their growth over time. In Art this term we used different materials and tools to create a variety of different art pieces. We made our own castles, beanstalk plants and frogs. The children were very focused and practiced designing their art work independently to capture their own creativity. Similarly, Cooking has involved us using different appliances to make a vareity of dishes. We practiced using the blender, microwave, grater and peeler and saw lots of independence throughout. As always, Communication has been threaded into everything that we do.



# Woodpecker Class cont.

Overall, we have seen such a positive impact on pupils ability to request, comment, form opinions and answer questions about a range of topics. If you would like any Communication resources to support your child at home, please do let us know.

This term has been very exciting as we had the Kings Coronation, Music for Autism and lots of birthdays. Woodpecker Class thoroughly enjoyed celebrating wider events this term and practiced interacting with people outside of our own class. It has also been brilliant to see children so proud of themselves when receiving the star of the week certificate in Assembly in front of a busy room of people.

We are very much looking forward to next half term with plenty of hard work, sunshine and fun throughout.

*Katie, Amelia, Rebecca, Heidi and Leann*





# Penguin Class

Our theme this term has been Myths & Legends, we have been focusing on traditional fairytales. We have been learning about some characteristics of traditional fairytales and learning the sign for aspects e.g. king, queen, knight, princess and fairy.

Within Storytime, the students enjoyed reading about the poem Story Stew, which involved mixing a witch's potion, filled with all sorts of slime, frogs legs and bubbles, we also read In the Castle, a story about what you might find in castle, we learnt about drawbridges, knights protecting the castle, kings, queens and the feasts they would have after victories. The pupils also learnt about Jack and the beanstalk, they enjoyed exploring the props of the golden eggs, sowing the seeds, the seed becoming a tall beanstalk and pressing the voice recorder to hear the famous giant's roar 'fee-fi-fo-fum'.

Within theme lessons, we have been planting our own beanstalks, watering them, comparing and commenting on how they have changed using aided language boards. The pupils have been so proud of how much they have grown, they can't wait to take them home and show you!

In cooking lessons, we have continued to focus on using new equipment that you would find in the kitchen, making princess smoothies, using a smoothie maker and chopping up the fruit. The pupils have made cauldron stews, focusing on chopping veg and using a slow cooker, they have also made cloud bread, which they really enjoyed. Within Art sessions, we explored colour, pattern, texture, shape, form and space. We are also worked on remembering how to use tools we have previously used and learning how to use new equipment. The pupils made paper plate frogs, junk model castles and looking mirrors. Within PE, we have been preparing on our skills needed for sports day, which we are all really looking forward to!

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

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



# Heron Class

Hello Everyone, I hope this newsletter finds you all well and enjoying the sunny weather as we all certainly have been at school these past few weeks. As half term looms we've been looking back at all the good work we've been doing in class since Easter on our topic 'Myths and Legends (Traditional Fairy Tales)'.

Our literacy this term has lined up with broader events in and out of school such as the Coronation, for which we very much hope you enjoyed our celebration event twinned with St George's Day. We kicked things off with the text 'Story Stew' and when we designed our own stews the crowd favourite was definitely 'troll snot'. After Jack and the Beanstalk we concluded with 'In the Castle' as we explored the idea of kings and knights - pupils loved pretending to be crowned king/queen in the sensory story and during attention bucket. Lastly, we have been impressed to see the good progress being made across the class with mark making.

In maths we have primarily focused on calculation and fractions. A new term introduced to many pupils was 'difference between' as we compared two amounts and some of our most able pupils have even become so fluent with fractions that they can calculate half of an amount in their head. As ever, we sought to keep all activities practical, using concrete resources.



# Heron Class

Topic (history) and science have been real highlights – we hope you're all still looking after those broad beans with your young people! The learning focus when growing them however, was on changes over time and exploring their transition from seed to fully grown plant. Science has seen us practically exploring different materials, most notably plastic, wood and metal, and sorting objects by their properties e.g. shiny and dull.

It need not be said that swimming continues to be successful for our young people with all pupils evidencing clear progress regardless of ability. Art and Cooking were also both successful and we hope you appreciated the pupils' hand-crafted castles.

Have a brilliant week off and long may the sunshine.

*From Teresa, Sarah, Angus, Kelly, Verity, Leann and Richard*





# Transition Pathway





# Albatross Class

The penultimate term has flown by and we have been as busy as ever, especially with celebrations! We started the term with the St George coffee morning and also spent time learning about our new King Charles and looking at coronation footage to find out what will take place. Pupils made lots of decorations for the celebrations including a couple of crowns!

The Theme for Term 5 was '*Myths & Legends*', so we thought about the difference between the two and how a myth is not true but just a made up story to explain some phenomenon; usually containing a mythical creature and of course, a hero. Legends bearing some truth on the other hand. Pupils had great examples of mythical creatures like unicorns, mermaids and monsters, even vampires and werewolves!. We looked at Greek Mythology and learnt about some of the characters i.e. Zeus the King of the Gods and Medusa with her snake like hair. We looked at some common legends i.e. Robin Hood and King Arthur. The communication Group looked at 'the Magic Paintbrush' a popular Chinese folklore. We played Chinese whispers and found it really funny that our phrase changed so much after being passed around a few times! That's legends for you!

As well as supporting our events in school by preparing cakes and making marmalade, the Enterprise Group have worked hard to host another Jacket Potato Café and pupils are now taking more responsibility in their roles. They have also been making marmalade to sell. Leann has lead sessions on Careers so students have thought more about their own strengths and the types of job they are interested in. They have been finding out about the interview process and will have opportunity to experience this more in term 6.

This term we have practiced for sports day events at OXSRAD, such as javelin and shotput and pupils have shown their developing skills in these areas ready for the event.



# Albatross Class cont.

Some pupils have been thinking about their transition to college and a few have made their first step visits which have all proved successful. This year we have pupils leaving to Abingdon, Oxford and Newbury Colleges. To coincide with the Eurovision Song contest. Albatross, Eagle and Hawk held their very own contest and it has been wonderful to see the ever growing confidence of our young performers!

Pupils worked hard this year to prepare for and support our Transition Information event within school, making posters, table cards and cakes. Some pupils were able to stay on at school and help out. They all worked hard and did amazing.

We have celebrated 2 birthdays and so once again have enjoyed lots of cake! Lastly, we have said our farewells to our fantastic Rachel this term, who has left for an exciting new role that we know she will shine in! We wish you all a great half term and look forward to all the exciting opportunities the summer term has to offer.

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

