



Kingfisher Newsletter

February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Half term seems to have come round very quickly as this has been a 5 week term. We have managed to cram so much in, including visits from Radley College Zoo, Music for Autism and winning the Panathlon, as well as coming third with another team. Well done to everyone taking part. We have also held a Coffee Morning on Friday 2nd February which was well attended and we raised around £60 for the PFSA.

As mentioned Radley College came into school with a range of exotic animals. The pupils (and some staff) had some great interactions with these animals and reptiles and certainly provided a great deal of excitement. Seeing the way the pupils interacted with these animals and reptiles was amazing to see. Although this was a short visit and not all classes had the opportunity to meet them, we will be asking Radley College to come back again soon.

Music for Autism is always an exciting time for us, these volunteers give up so much of their precious time to come into school to make music accessible for all. This week we have had Woodwind ensemble. Pupils from all classes had this experience, many loved dancing to the beautiful sounds of the Oboe, Clarinet and Bassoon.

Eagle Class competed in the Penathlon held in Oxford. As you can see they were very excited that they had come first and third in the competition and were very proud to show everyone their medals and school trophy. They took part in a range of different sports and had great pleasure in telling me what each of their favourite activities were.

If you could, please click here to give your views about our school [Give your views | Ofsted Parent View](#)

Dates for your Diary

Last day of Term	Friday 9 th February 2024
Start of New Term	Monday 19 th February 2024
Coffee Morning(s)	Friday 1 st March 2024 and Friday 15 th March 2024
Quiz Night	Friday 22 nd March 2024
Last day of Term	Thursday 28 th March 2024
Start of New Term	Monday 15 th April 2024
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May 2024

Have a great half term break

Best Wishes

Lorraine



Sensory Pathway



Flamingo Class

We have really enjoyed exploring our theme “My Life Cycle” this term. It has been lovely to see the pictures of the pupils at different ages and we have been able to use them to talk about how the pupils have changed and grown. In Atmospherics and Sensology we have been exploring different ages using all our senses and the smell of fruit tea with nursery rhyme music was a favourite in the class.

The pupils have really enjoyed our body percussion story, which has supported their understanding of their own bodies, and we have started to introduce the language for arms, legs, head and chest. Each part of the body has a different rhythm or type of percussion to begin to differentiate different parts of the body and support pupils who can be defensive to touch. We have continued with our book group sessions which allow pupils to access stories that are appropriate to their interests in small groups and some firm favourites this term have been “Once There Were Giants” by Martin Waddell and “Mr Stink” by David Walliams.

During our mark making activities the pupils have been working hard to develop their skills. We are continuing to make marks using pens regularly, but we have also been exploring different colours including mixing paint and also using shaving foam to create patterns to print into a picture.

In Maths the pupils have been working towards their ILP targets during specific sessions but we have also been working hard on play skills. Building towers has been a popular session, particularly when the towers get knocked down! There have also been opportunities for pupils to work on their Interaction and Cause and Effect during our Intensive Interaction sessions.

In PSHE the pupils have been exploring different emotions through a massage story.

Well done to all the pupils for such hard work this term and we hope you all enjoy your half term!

Eleanor, Kerryann, Sally, Emma and Perri



Toucan Class

It's been lovely to see the wonderful progress we have all been making this term. It's amazing to see our friendships continuing to develop within our class. We've enjoyed communicating through music as well and have had some wonderful Interaction sessions together.

We have really enjoyed our Theme 'My Life Cycle' and engaged and participated in our phonics stories, 'As we grow: The journey of life' by Libby Walden and 'The Growing Story' by Ruth Krauss and Helen Oxenbury. We've enjoyed taking clothes out of boxes and trying them on and especially exploring pears with our senses that have grown on the trees, as part of 'The Growing Story'. In our sensory story about 'Growing up' some of us loved holding the baby doll and using the switch to communicate 'shhh' to each other as the baby is sleeping. We liked looking at ourselves in the mirror and seeing how we look now as we are becoming, or are, teenagers. We are also doing well in our writing and mark making sessions.

In Maths everyone has really engaged with exploring big and small objects. We enjoyed building big and small towers and had lots of fun finding small cars to go down our ramps.

In Art we explored mixing primary colours to create secondary colours in lots of different sensory elements. Our favourite activities were choosing two primary colours and mixing them together in shaving foam and using different tools to mix the colours on bubble wrap.

We look forward to our next term's theme all about Supermarkets.

Julie, Siobhán, Sarah, Maria, Lynette, Louise and Helen.



Robin Class

Our Topic this term has been 'My Life Cycle' and we have been learning lots about growing up. Our Sensory story this term has been 'Once there were Giants', We have enjoyed this story and liked listening to the ducks that they find in the pond quacking. We also enjoyed throwing the porridge oats in like the girl in the story. In phonics this term we have been mark making using our fingers in flour and cornflour practising reaching across our body to make these marks.

We have been busy in Maths this term, learning about big and small. We have been exploring objects and pictures of different sizes and most of us can look or point to the big and small one when asked to by an adult. This term we have also been practising using both hands together. We have been doing this by using both hands to rip and scrunch large pieces of paper.

In PE this term we have been practising using both hands to reach across our bodies, doing this through different activities including taking rings off and on cones. In Atmospherics this term we have been continuing our theme of 'My Life Cycle' and experiencing music relating to different ages - everyone had different favourites during these lessons. In sensory cooking this term we have been making pizza and we all really enjoyed exploring the different ingredients, including the tomato puree, squeezing it between our fingers.

Alicia, Amanda, Katia, Tracey, Liza, Julia, Lorna, Tina and Dawn



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 learning about the Stone Age and how cavemen and women lived all those years ago. The children have explored the types of homes they used to live in, the food they ate and the clothes that they wore. They have made comparisons with how we live today and how it is different.

We have enjoyed our thematic learning on 'The Stone Age' this term. The children have made bread using the ingredients that were used in the Stone Age and the way in which it would have been cooked. They have designed their own clothes for cavemen and women. The children have been learning a poem and actions that are related to it. I think their favourite thing to do this term was to play some of the games the children would have played during the Stone Age – they were new and exciting and very different from games we play today.

In Science the children have been focusing on body parts of humans and animals. We have made comparisons between the skeleton of different animals and looked at the similarities and differences.

In Maths the children have been learning about Measure and comparing different items, looking at length, height and comparing the tallest and shortest. The children enjoyed being drawn around and their heights compared. The children have also been learning to sequence numbers to ten, looking at what numbers come next.

The children have had an exciting term. They have been learning lots of new songs, using signs to support the singing and exploring lots of instruments along the way!

In swimming we have been learning to jump into the pool and to become confident in the water, they have been pushing away from the side, exploring the deep end if confident and putting their faces in the water.

Take Care, Best Wishes.

Jo, Tina, Kim, Charlotte and Emily



Hawk Class

Hawk Class have been hard at work this half term learning through our theme 'People in Time.' We focused on Cavemen and the Stone Age through cross curricular learning experiences. In English we did 3 whole class texts including Caveman Dave (fictional), I was born in the Stone Age (poetry) and All About Cavemen (Non- Fiction.) We used Colourful Semantics to create sentences about the texts as well as character profiles with a focus on adjectives. Some of us explored the texts through 'Grids' and 'Aided language boards' to extend our communication skills, whilst some of us practised asking questions about the text using symbol support. As always, we have continued to follow the Read Write Inc Programme with a focus on speed sounds, segmenting and blending, story books and writing. Some children joined new groups this term and the progress has been excellent!

In History we have learnt about life as a caveman and made comparisons between then and now. We compared homes, toys, food, fashion and music through a variety of sensory experiences. In Science we have been learning about keeping ourselves healthy. We explored different ways of exercising and why we exercise. The children enjoyed participating in a Joe Wicks children's workout which you may want to share with them at home. We identified healthy and unhealthy foods and learnt about the importance of moderation and a balanced diet.

In Maths we explored Measure this term with a focus on capacity, weight and length. We practised using comparative terms to describe the measure of an object. It may be worth testing your child on pouring a 'half full' drink and see what they can remember! Some of us practised using nonstandard units of measurement such as cubes, hands and lego bricks. We explored counting on from a given number, using number lines and finding one more and one less than a given number using number grids.



Hawk Class - continued

In P.E this term we learnt 'gymnastics' including rolling, jumping, balancing and doing partner work. In P.S.H.E we have been learning about managing our feelings through the structured system 'Zones of Regulation.' It has been wonderful to see the children playing so nicely together during social time this term. Some of the children have enjoyed leading games and recreating scenes from 'Matilda.' They found lots of enjoyment acting as 'Miss Trunchball' and sending the adults to the 'chokey!' Other children have been practising pedaling the bikes, using the scooter and competing in races.

We had a special visit from Music for Autism this term as well as a visit from some 'exotic animals.' The children were able to handle snakes, bearded dragons, skinks, scorpions and hedgehogs. Most of the children were much braver than the adults!

Have a wonderful half term and we are very much looking forward to the next.

Katie, Megan, Nicola, Julie, Kate, Amelia, Tess



Eagle Class

Eagle Class were lucky enough to get invited to the Sheldonian theatre in Oxford to listen to a performance of 'An Ocean Odyssey' performed by the Orchestra. As well as listening, some of the class got to join in with some percussion instruments. There was also an opportunity to sing-along to some 'Sea Shanties' which the children particularly enjoyed. It was a great trip and as always, the children's behaviour was magnificent!

Some of the children have been visiting the Animal Centre at Radley College. It is so interesting, they have been able to walk goats and ferrets, scratch and tickle pigs, feed and stroke sheep and work with the hounds and puppies to sit on command. I know that this is a really popular trip with the young people that have been and we hope to be able to continue sharing this opportunity with Penguin class after half term. We would also hope that some of the children that have not yet been would be able to go in the new term.

Our friends from Radley College came to visit us at school with their Exotic Zoo Pets as well. It was amazing, all of the children got to hold, stroke and play with the animals. Everybody was very brave and even if they didn't want to hold an animal, they sat with their friends to watch and touch the animals. There were some huge python snakes that squeezed us when we held them. Some smaller corn snakes with beautiful patterns on them who wriggled up our arms but didn't squeeze at all. They also had a bearded dragon that enjoyed us holding and stroking him and a skink that was very friendly. We learnt that a skink is a cross between a lizard and a snake. It had a snake's body and lizard legs. One of the most popular creatures was a tame hedgehog that everyone enjoyed handling.



Eagle Class - continued

The children have also been working incredibly hard in the classroom. They have enjoyed measuring in our maths lessons. Using a trundle wheel, they measured the pathway out on the big field and then worked out how many times you would need to go around the path to walk a mile. It takes 16 laps! The children have been challenging themselves to see how many laps they can do in each playtime, aiming to reach a mile across the day. This has made great links with our science topic of 'Healthy Living'. Making sure that we get lots of fresh air and exercise each day. We have also been looking at sleep and how important it is for our bodies. We learnt that children of our age should be having between 8 and 10 hours of sleep each night. We also learned that there should be no screen time for an hour before we sleep. As you can imagine these ideas were not very popular and there were lots of heated discussions about what the children should be allowed to do at bedtime! They even wondered where the information had come from – had we made it up they asked? I reassured them that doctors and scientists had carried out lots of research to find out the best way to sleep but I am not sure they really believed me. It was great to see and hear them arguing their point in a considered, grown-up way.

Lorna, Becka, Laura, Jo, Michaela and Tess.



Communication Pathway



Macaw Class

What an incredible term Macaw Class has had. This term we have been learning all about the Stone Age and how cavemen lived. For our Theme we have been learning and looking at all the differences of the life style between the Stone Age and nowadays, learning about how they used to eat, dress, dance etc. For cooking we have been alternating every week, cooking recipes such as bread and stew, observing how times have evolved and the differences of manipulating everything with our hands or having utensils to do so.

Pupils have loved Art as it has involved experiencing lots of different textures to create different clothing from then and now and also lots of different materials to give texture to our pictures of animals back then.

In Maths we have been learning all about measurement, focusing on length, height and time. We have done activities such as measuring each other and ordering ourselves from shortest to tallest, looking at different animals and identifying which ones are long and which ones are short and also exploring activities we do at different times during the day. For the last 2 weeks we have focused on Number and Place Value, looking at pattern and learning how to follow the beat.

In English we have explored 3 different stories, a poem, a non fiction text and a fiction story to do with the Stone Age. Our favourite one was I live in the Stone Age poem where we got to explore lots of rocks. The poem also involved a fruit and veg hunt on the sensory garden which pupils enjoy very much.

Phonics keeps being a success in Macaw Class and we have had great progress from everyone.

Have a lovely half term,

Macaw Class Team: Marie, Ali, Amy and Gal



Woodpecker Class

Woodpecker Class have gone through some changes this term with a new teacher, but they have certainly worked hard and seemed to enjoy our theme “People through Time- The stone age”.

We have explored The Stone Age in many ways during different subjects throughout the week, this has included sensory stories, cooking and art. During English we have experienced a poem about the stone age, exploring different shaped rocks and how the stone age classroom was different to our classroom today. We experienced a sensory story using props to represent the stone age as well as facts about how the stone age developed through time.

During maths we got to take part in different measuring methods, looking at weight, length and volume. All pupils got to explore different weights of heavy and light items with the use of scales with a focus on using different rocks to represent the stone age. The pupils also seemed to enjoy Tall and Short activities, where they got to draw round the tallest person in class and the shortest to compare their heights.

During our thematic learning we have explored the history of the stone age, what toys, music and clothes looked like and we compared them to how they are now. We got to explore different fabrics and music from the stone age. We also made a great display in school showing the comparisons of people in the stone age to what people look like now.

Woodpecker Class have also worked really hard on their class environment. We have created practical displays to show our fantastic work as well as complete a jobs rota everyday to show how we can look after our environment. Each pupil takes it in turns to complete a job around the classroom such as hoovering, wiping tables, general tidying and washing up. This has shown some great team work with staff and visual support. Well done Woodpecker Class!

As a class, we have also celebrated our amazing hard work at the end of each day with our ‘Wow’ moments and shared who’s the star for the work they have completed that day. The pupils seem to really enjoy celebrating each other's work with the star visuals and staff celebrating with a song.

A fantastic term - well done to everyone!

Jen, Heidi, Sophie & Rebecca



Penguin Class

Hello all, I hope this newsletter finds you well. We've had a brilliant term at Kingfisher with some real highlights including a visit from Radley Zoo, Music for Autism, Pets as Therapy sessions and trips to the Countryside Centre. Some photos included below.

Our literacy texts have been well received by pupils this term, especially 'All About Robin Hood' within which we explored some of Robin's adventures through a sensory story and roleplay. Pupils constructed sentences to caption images from the stories using Colourful Semantics and tied their phonics into mark making sessions as they practised each phoneme in turn.

In maths we had a clear focus on Measure and explored length, weight and capacity before moving onto sequencing numbers at the end of the term. Pupils really enjoyed the hands-on aspect of 'measure' with tape measures, weighted bags and magic potions keeping us busy.

It has been lovely to see our young people achieving so well in swimming too, whether accessing the pool with greater confidence or learning breast-stroke legs, pupils have evidenced really positive progress.



Penguin Class - continued

In other non-core subjects pupils absolutely loved our PSHE work as we explored different scenarios, both good and bad, using Zones of Regulation symbols. We also investigated changes over time in history, and also in science as we taped bagged apple slices to the window and watched them turn brown.

For our year 10 and 11 pupils we have also been working on our ASDAN objectives. This term the focus has been either 'cognition' or 'communication' depending upon what stage there are on in the accreditation.

Here's wishing you all a fantastic half term and we'll see you again soon.

From Amelia, Kate, Teresa, Leann and Richard



Heron Class

Our theme this term has been 'People Through Time'. We have been focusing on historical figures, Florence Nightingale and Robin Hood.

Within Storytime, the students enjoyed reading the poem 'The Lady with the Lamp', a fiction text, 'Rameena's Ramadan' and a non-fiction text 'All about Robin Hood'. The pupils really enjoyed learning about what traditions people take part in when celebrating Ramadan. They enjoyed learning about hospitals hundreds of years ago and what Robin Hood is known for, they particularly enjoyed disguising themselves, just like Robin Hood.

Within preparing for adulthood/careers lessons, we have been focusing on joining assemblies, parachute games, sharing items we have made to a small group, litter picking, learning about Ramadan experiences and personal hygiene. Pupils really enjoyed litter picking on the field, they enjoyed using the litter pickers.

We have had a huge focus on emotions within PSHE. The pupils have been making their own toolbox by completing work such as what makes me happy, sad, angry, ill/ when I am feeling a certain emotion, what will make me feel better? When my friend is feeling upset, what shall I do? What does bullying look like? We were very impressed with the pupils' strategies.

We are looking forward to the bowling trip tomorrow, apparently many of our pupils enjoy bowling so it will be great to get them out and about and focus on adulthood skills.

The pupils have really enjoyed our sessions with the Pets as Therapy dog, they have been gentle when stroking and it has relaxed them. They often ask within the week, when is doggy? Radley Zoo visited the school the pupils were able to touch the reptiles they brought in. I was very shocked and impressed at how brave they all were! The pupils have had a great term which involved two pupils' birthday parties. The pupils enjoyed singing happy birthday, wearing birthday hats, choosing which cake they would like to try and playing duck, duck, goose. We hope you have a great half term! Let us know what you get up to by posting on Evisense!

Jemma, Amy.Y, Amy.A, Leann & Vicki



Transition Pathway



Pelican Class

We are nearly at the end of another busy term. The pupils have worked so hard and are looking forward to a well- deserved break. We have continued to access weekly shopping, gym and cycling trips as well as linking up with the local community fridge. This term we have been lucky enough to have some animal visitors including exotic animals from Radley College and a weekly visit from a Therapy dog.

We have enjoyed celebrating our theme 'People through Time', in Art creating 3D models on the Ancient Egyptians and in group, practising our signs of people who have different occupations. In Maths, we have looked at the topic Measure; exploring comparative language through a range of practical activities. This term we have also added Attention Bucket sessions onto our timetable and have been really pleased with pupil engagement.

Vocational learning continues to be a large part of our weekly timetable and pupils have continued to participate in daily class jobs. Now the weather is getting a bit warmer, some students have been involved in litter picking on the school site. We have continued with weekly cooking in class, this term making toasties, jacket potatoes, pizzas, soup and sandwiches.

Next term we are looking at the theme 'Shopping' It would be wonderful if you could support our delivery by encouraging pupils to participate in simple shopping activities both online and out in the community, for example locating an item to buy online or in the shop, looking at and discussing signs in our everyday environment.

Thank you for all your continued support,

Have a lovely half term

Cathy, Sarah, Adriana, Sian, Sharon and Louise.



Albatross Class

We started the New Year with a thought to some new targets that we might want to achieve over the remaining part of the year. Albatross pupils have continued to share in all class duties and jobs as well as continue to develop their independence skills via shopping, cooking and preparing their own lunch for one of the days. We have continued with our individual Literacy and Math targets with a particular focus on Time this term. We had a visit from Maggie, our Careers Advisor who met with students individually to discuss next steps, and we have also had Tracey Rodgers (Schools Advisor for DWP) come into school each week to take sessions on job opportunities and building a CV. We have continued this term with our Tim Henman Tennis Coaching sessions and have also engaged with the visit from Radley Animals – some of us even handling a snake!

The Theme for Term 3 was 'People through Time'. We have paid a particular focus on up to 10 significant famous people through History, and those that have predominantly fitted in with our special events. As we began the new year with Epiphany, we started our new Theme with thinking about Jesus Christ. We have found out more about Martin Luther King due to his special day in January and listened once again to his famous speech 'I have a dream'. For Burns Night we found out about Robert Burns (who wrote Auld Lang Syne) and watched footage of the Scottish celebration for addressing the Haggis. Following on from our Christmas play, we have started to find out more about the world-famous Playwright William Shakespeare, with the thought of a rather special trip in the coming terms!



Albatross Class - continued

The class hosted another very successful Coffee Morning. Students are continuing to gain confidence in their various roles of helping to plan, prepare and support during the events. They all looked very professional wearing their new black matching aprons purchased with Enterprise funds. The Enterprise Group hosted the ever-popular Jacket Potato Café which has also welcomed our visitors. We have now purchased a Karaoke machine with Enterprise funds that can be used by the whole school! Some students have continued their work experience offsite, at the local Community Larder and the OXSRAD Café, as well as helping with the many jobs across school. We will soon be planning our next work placements as the weather starts to warm up. This term our PSHE sessions lead by Tess have focused on strong feelings, including physical and emotional attraction towards others. We have covered LGBT and have continued with a regular recap on Online Safety. Some students visited Oxford College as a potential placement and to find out more about college life. We have a visit to Abingdon campus planned next term.

Lastly, we have ended the Term with an introduction to the upcoming Chinese New Year which will continue next term with a special meal and have started some creative work for Valentine's Day.

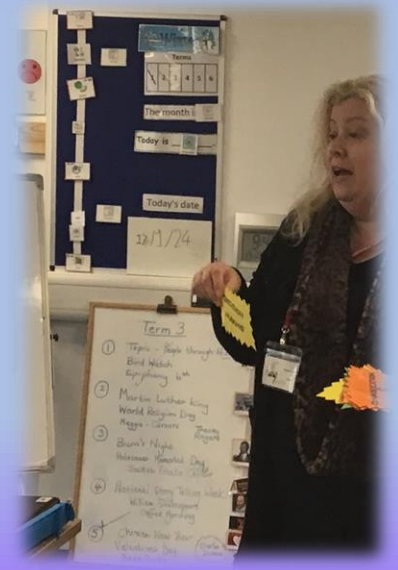
Quotes: *"I quite liked cycling; it was fun! I rode a Tandem! I liked learning about World Religion"*

"I enjoyed visiting Oxford College and writing CVs"

"I love shopping at Tesco's"

Happy Half Term!

Albatross Class - Leah, Sharon, Lisa, Ellie, Esther and Tess



Other information

