



Kingfisher Newsletter

December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

What an amazing Term 2 we have had here at Kingfisher. The overarching theme to the term was Celebrations and Food. Many of the classes have been looking at celebration events encompassing all faiths and religions, culminating in the Celebration of Christmas. Today we had a visit from Santa and his special Elf. On behalf of the pupils I would like to thank the PFSA for providing the money to buy the presents.

This week we have shown our School Performance via a cinema style event where parents, carers and friends joined us in the hall for drinks and biscuits before settling down to watch the performance on the big screen. I'd like to say it went without a hitch but..... the end result was that we saw all the pupils engaged and working together to perform their part. Well don't to all involved and a big thankyou to the staff for their contributions and a particular thank you to Michael for putting the individual videos together into one. We will be putting the video on the Website later this week and will let you know via email when this is done.

We had the pleasure of welcoming Nick Cope to the school last week. He played music and sang songs with our pupils. There were a lot of pupils, and some staff, who were a little bit star struck. Thank you to Liz for organising this great event.

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

Dates for your Diary

Return for new year	Tuesday 9 th January 2024
Enterprise Coffee Morning	Friday 2 nd February 2024
Parent Consultation	Wednesday 7 th February 2024
Last day of Term	Friday 9 th February 2024
Start of New Term	Monday 19 th February 2024

Have a great Christmas Holiday

Best Wishes

Lorraine



Sensory Pathway



Flamingo Class

We have really enjoyed exploring our theme of “Celebrations and Food” this term and the pupils have been working really hard! We have explored the festival of Holi with all our senses including smelling and tasting spiced yogurt during Sensology and exploring different colours and how they mix during our art and mark-making sessions.

In Maths the pupils have been engaging really well with switch work, especially using switches to turn on Christmas lights. We have also been exploring taking turns during interaction games, which the pupils have found hilarious. A favourite for some of the pupils is Simon Says, where they can instruct an adult to do what they want them to - including falling over!

In preparation for Christmas the pupils have been involved in lots of themed art and mark-making activities, including making baubles and ornaments to be sold at the Christmas craft fair. They have also all been involved in filming our Christmas performance video which was a lot of fun, as you will see!

In PSHE we have been looking at “People who help us” and talking about all the adults who help the pupils when they are at school. We have also been exploring the different ways we can ask for help from adults throughout the week, as well as during our focused communication sessions.

We have started attending Phase 1 assembly this term with all the classes in the Phase, and the pupils have really enjoyed getting to know some new friends and celebrating our achievements together!

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

Eleanor, Kerryann, Sally, Emma and Perri



Toucan Class

We have had a very merry end to the term indeed. The Christmas highlights have included an extra special visit from the Trinity Church Signing group who provided the song pack that was sent home for you to enjoy. The group did a sensory telling of the nativity, with songs, lights and items to explore. The hay in the manger was definitely one of the class favourites, making quite the mess, but no one seemed to mind. We also had an amazing visit from Nick Cope who Toucan class already knew very well through his songs which can be found on YouTube and the BBC iPlayer. I am sure the pupils would love to share them with you at home.

As usual we had our Christmas lunch and Christmas performance. We hope that all the family at home enjoy the Christmas Olympics. We certainly enjoyed creating them. Of course, we had our annual visit from Santa himself. The Christmas Bag Santa sent home along with the aided language board will hopefully be a fun activity for you to share over the holidays. All the items in it have been very popular in class this year with everyone having different favourites.

We have been working hard on our play skills this term. We have been exploring different ways of playing (container, construction and transport play). Transport play has been the most popular within class and we have particularly enjoyed play that involves putting balls, cars etc. down ramps. It has been lovely to see the pupils exploring toys more independently and this term we have noticed much more sharing happening as pupils pass items to their friends. Activities that involve lining up toys have also been popular. Maybe a family domino competition over the holidays would be fun?

We have been particularly proud of the pupils' phonics work this term. Everyone has been making progress in either recognising letters and/ or pictures. Every single member of Toucan class love sharing books which is wonderful, and rhyming books have been especially popular. It has been positive to see an improvement in everyone's reading behaviours, such as waiting until the pause at the end of the page before attempting to turn the page.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone,

Tor, Julie, Maria, Lynette, Sarah, Louise and Helen



Robin Class

This term we have been really busy with our Celebrations theme, focusing on Holi festival and Christmas. The pupils in Robin class have been engaging well in their sensory story sessions, bringing to life the Holi Festival with coloured paint and Holi Music. Pupils have also continued working hard in maths with group activities and one to one focusing on their ILP targets, which also includes using eye gaze equipment during these sessions.

In art this term we have been creating Christmas items to sell, working on making wreaths, Christmas tree decorations and Christmas cards. The pupils have experienced lots of sensory items in art along with lots of glitter to create a Christmas feel. This has also linked in with Sensory Cooking, experiencing different Christmas foods, from gingerbread men to mince pies. The pupils get a chance to experience different textures and smells with a focus creating a masterpiece to try or give away to family and friends.

We have had some lovely visitors this term with Trinity Church coming in and doing a performance of the nativity story with props and beautiful singing from the school to join in. We also had Nick Cope in to perform Christmas music. Robin Class loved this and engaged so well during this session. We also had a Christmas lunch with lots of decorations, and pupils had the chance to see Father Christmas for their presents. We hope you enjoy them, Robin Class.

Toward the end of the term, we moved on to the elf sensory story “Are you an Elf?”, exploring all elements of what makes an elf, using all 5 senses throughout the story. This then linked in nicely with the work the pupils had been doing for their Christmas play, “We’re going on an elf chase”. All pupils took part in exploring different areas of the school to find the elf and a Christmas item in the box, with a finish of spreading Christmas glitter everywhere. Well done, Robin class for all your hard work and thank you all so much for your continued support this term.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year

Jen, Siobhán, Liza, Amanda, Tracy, Katia, Lorna, Julia, Tina & 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 mark-making using shaving foam, exploring colours that create the moon to celebrate the Moon Festival. The children have also made lanterns and moon cookies in cooking. The children have been learning about the iconic celebrations that are celebrated at this time of year in different countries: Halloween, The Moon Festival and Christmas.

We have enjoyed our thematic learning on 'Celebrations' this term. The children have explored each of the celebrations, making foods that are used to rejoice in them: Halloween chocolate apples, Rice Crispy Pumpkins, Pinwheels and Mince Pies. In Art the children have made ghost and pumpkin pictures. The children have also made salt dough decorations for the Christmas tree and Christmas wreaths. They very much enjoyed making their Christmas cards and using the paint to explore different Christmas colours.

In Science the children have been focusing on light and dark looking at how light is created and the different types of colours that can be made. The children have been learning about which appliances are powered by electricity and which are not. They have explored the light sources they have in their classroom and learnt how to use them.

In Maths the children have been learning Calculation and Geometry skills. We have focused on counting and understanding numbers to 10, knowing one more or one less. We will have explored whole and half by cutting fruit and shapes in half and putting them back together. We have looked at different shapes and learnt about their properties. How many sides does it have? The children have also explored pattern, repeating patterns and making their own patterns using a variety of different resources.

The children have had an exciting term. They have had a visit from Trinity Church, extra music sessions on a Friday, which they have very much enjoyed, a Christmas lunch and party. The children have also created their own Christmas video, The Cheeky Owls of Kingfisher.... They very much look forward to you watching!

In swimming we have been learning to float on our front and our backs and move backwards and forwards in different ways. The children are working towards their stage 1 and this has been very positive.

Take Care, Best Wishes. MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Jo, Tina, Kim, Charlotte



Hawk Class

Hawk Class have had an excellent term and we are all very excited for the Christmas break! This term our theme has been around 'Celebrations' and we have focused on Halloween, Moon Festival and Christmas.

In English we engaged in a variety of different texts including poetry, fiction and non fiction. We used colourful semantics to create sentences about the texts including verbs and adjectives. We also explored writing for different purposes including letters and shopping lists. We made Christmas present lists, Christmas dinner shopping lists and a letter to Father Christmas. We also practised our Communication skills through the texts by answering and asking questions with varying levels of support. We have continued with our daily Phonics sessions with a focus on speed sounds, blending, reading books and writing phonemes, digraphs and short words.

In Maths this term we focused on Calculation and Geometry. In particular we learnt about fractions and division in simple terms, patterns, 2D / 3D shapes and positional language. We have been practicing applying our Maths skills to everyday situations including Cooking, Social time and daily jobs.

Through our thematic learning, we learnt about changes over time. We did this by looking at photographs of the growth of a baby and a seed, commenting on what changes occurred as time passed. In Science we learnt about Light and are now able to notice and identify light sources in our immediate environment. In Cooking, we practised basic skills including mixing, rolling, kneading and chopping. We made vegetable rice, witch hats, spider biscuits and moon cakes. I won't mention my disastrous recipe for moon cakes which all went incredibly wrong! In Art we focused on multi sensory art and sculpture and managed to create Halloween scenes, lanterns, angels and stained-glass pictures.



Hawk Class-continued

One of the highlights this term has been our preparation for Christmas. The children worked so hard to practice and perform for the Christmas production. I must say that our Mary, Joseph, Innkeeper, Star, Shepherds, Kings and Angels worked together so well to create our final product and we hope you enjoyed watching the performance too. As well as this we had a special visit from Trinity Choir who told the Nativity story through physical props and songs which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

It has been fantastic to see so many achievements and 'wow' moments this term and we are all looking forward to seeing what the new term brings. Have a brilliant and well rested half term break.

Katie, Megan. Nicola, Julie, Kate



Eagle Class-continued

Welcome to the Christmas Newsletter for Eagle class. The term seems to have whizzed by again with lots of hard work and exciting activities and adventures. At the beginning of term all of the children travelled to London to the Olympic swimming pool for a national swimming gala. Some of the class swam and some of the class were cheer leaders with lots of enthusiastic cheering and banners that we had made in class. One of the organisers came to talk to the children to admire their banners and was really impressed, saying that no other team had done that before. The swimmers were exceptional and couldn't have tried any harder. They swam against young people from all around the country and up to the age of 18. They raced their hearts out and were placed from first to third in every race. They came fifth out of 8 teams and there were only 5 points between the first five teams, so they did extraordinarily well.

The children have enjoyed cooking with Tess this term. They have made snacks and treats to represent some of the key celebrations that we have been learning about this term. The children made hotdogs to celebrate bonfire night, Barfi sweets for Diwali and teddy bear shaped cookies for 'Children in Need'. They also made 's'mores' for Thanksgiving and some delicious cupcakes for Becka's birthday. We did send home some of the Barfi sweets for you to try – what did you think? Opinions were divided in class, some of us really liked it and others thought it was horrible!

We have been lucky enough to follow Jack's dad online as he took part in his first 200, mile race. It was really exciting to track his progress and see where he was each day. We were very impressed with all that running and he finished on Saturday which is amazing. Some of the children saw his video on Facebook too. If other parents are doing exciting things online please share with us as we like to learn new skills on the computer and share positive examples of ICT and online use.



Eagle Class

I am so proud of the children's work on the Christmas play. They came up with most of the ideas and scripts for the play and have worked incredibly hard to learn and deliver their lines with little or no help. We hope that whether you come to see it at school or view it at home at Christmas you will love it as much as we do!

The children were lucky enough to be invited to Trinity Church for a carol service which was lovely. The children sang along with great enthusiasm and enjoyed exploring all the decorations on the tree and around the nativity.

We also had a visit from Nick Cope, a CBeebies presenter and performer. The children enjoyed his visit and sang along to all his tunes and lyrics.

You may have heard that as a little treat we had a surprise visit to MacDonalds last Thursday – the whole staff team felt very strongly that they would like to reward the children in Eagle Class for all their hard work, enthusiasm and achievements this year – you should be very proud of them, we certainly are!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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



Communication Pathway



Macaw Class

Macaw Class has had a term full of celebrations. We started the term celebrating Halloween, after that we celebrated the Moon Festival and we finished with Christmas. Art and cooking have been a great example of it, where the children decorated their own pumpkins, transformed their faces into Santa and created some beautiful moon decorations. In cooking we have practised using different cooking tools/utensils as we needed to practise for our Christmas performance. Pupils have created some delicious winter ice creams, pizzas, mince pies and of course, our famous roast dinner. This year for the Christmas play Macaw cooked a roast dinner using all our counting skills of numbers up to 20. We have also done lots of work on shapes which was also really handy looking at 2D and 3D shapes to compare with real food.

We have been learning about plug safety and electrical appliances and the favourite one was the projector which we used to learn about the very hungry Caterpillar. We also took the opportunity to let the pupils create their own story which ended up with lots of creative suggestions and the pupils let their imaginations fly. We have done lots of work in phonics, reading and writing as always, and have seen great improvement.

This term we have also done lots of reading on the iPad using our new Grids for iPad learning method in which the pupils not only managed to read their favourite stories and navigate the iPad at the same time, but they also managed to create some book reviews to evaluate their reading.

In PE we have been focusing on a couple of sports, such as football and basketball, and practising penalties has been everyone's favourite. We even had some pupils who knew how to celebrate after scoring a goal.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Macaw Class Team: Marie, Ali, Amy, Leann and Gal



Woodpecker Class

Our theme this term has been 'Celebrations' and we have been learning all about Halloween, the Moon Festival and Christmas. In English we first read a poem called 'Its Halloween'. We tried on different costumes and even got to try some sweets. Our next story was all about the Moon Festival and we really enjoyed watching the dragon dances as well. Our final story was 'Jesus' Christmas Party', which follows the nativity and we explored lots of props relating to the different visitors in the story.

In maths this term we continued our work on number, we have been learning how to share things into groups and making sure that we share things equally. We have also been learning all about shape. We have been learning the names of lots of different shapes and we are getting really good at identifying them using our aided language boards. We have also been practising drawing the different shapes and coping them.

In science we have been learning about light and sound. We have spent lots of time using the equipment in the light room. We really enjoy the magic carpet because it reacts in different ways when we step on it. In our lessons about sound we have been using the resonance board. We love these sessions because we get to make lots of noise in time to the songs. We have become really good at following the drumming patterns from the adult as well.

In art we have had lots of fun making Christmas cards and pictures to take home - some of us really like copying the example given to us and others really like making it our own choosing the different colours.

Alicia, Heidi, Rebecca, Sophie



Penguin Class

Happy holidays everyone, well done for making it to the end of term and goodness what busy term it's been! We've been jam packed with activities and learning, especially in the run up to Christmas and the winter holidays with our school production and various festive activities taking place in amongst our usual learning.

In maths we have focused on calculation and geometry. Due to the pupils having excellent prior knowledge of the names of different 2D and 3D shapes we were able to extend to thinking about identifying these shapes in real life contexts, in images and practically around the school site.

Literacy has been brilliant this term with pupils engaging marvelously with all of our class texts: 'Christmas Around the World' (watch out for this in our Christmas play), 'I am Thankful' and 'On Bonfire Night'. Pupils wowed us with their progress with mark making and demonstrated growing comprehension when constructing related sentences using colourful semantics. As ever, our literacy learning has served as the basis for many of our non-core subjects with themed cooking and art activities taking place. Indeed, at the rate our art folders are filling up you may have to take some work home in February!

Some subjects however have branched out this term, with Geography and History thinking about stories from other cultures and differences between old and young respectively. In science we learnt about light, sound and electricity and explored how to use batteries to power small toys. Pupils loved visiting the light room to explore using these light up toys in the dark. In swimming it has been marvelous to see some of our young people begin to access breast-stroke, sitting on the side and swimming with noodles, practicing the leg movements with physical help from staff.

Special events this term have included a bespoke carol service for our young people provided by the 'Trinity Singers' as well a visit from CBeebies presenter Nick Cope. Our annual Christmas events also kept us busy such as visiting Santa to receive a gift and attending our 'premiere & carols' event in the last week of term. Whatever you get up to this holiday season, be it out and about or snug at home, have a truly fantastic time and we will see you all again in the new year.

From Amelia, Kate, Teresa, Angus, Leann and Richard



Heron Class

Our theme this term has been Celebrations/food. We have been focusing on Thanksgiving, Bonfire night and Christmas around the world.

Within Storytime, the students enjoyed reading the poem 'I am Thankful' by Sheri Wall, a fiction text, On Bonfire Night and a non-fiction text Christmas around the World. The pupils really enjoyed learning about what traditions people take part in on Thanksgiving day, enjoyed watching firework displays and learning about all the different traditions from around the world, like putting straw in shoes for Father Christmas!

The pupils really enjoyed making the Christmas play 'The Grinch', all pupils worked really hard to say a line in time and act out a part. We all had such a fun time recording the show.

Within careers lessons, we have been focusing on getting someone's attention in an appropriate way. All pupils had to use an aided language board to request an item from reception. We focused on sharing our likes and dislikes when doing food tasting - a lot of pupils did not like the sour sweets! Pupils really enjoyed choosing what music they enjoyed, listening to jazz, rock, indie, pop, blues and country, we all had a little dance to the songs we enjoyed.

The pupils really enjoyed Nick Cope performing some of his songs with his guitar, all Heron class pupil sat very nicely and joined in with actions. At the end some of us decided we wanted to have a little dance! We managed to get a group picture, with most of us looking at the camera!

The pupils have had a great term which involved two pupil and two staff birthday parties. The pupils are now pros at musical statues and musical chairs! We hope you have a great Christmas break and we hope Father Christmas is kind to you! 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 and this term a couple of us have had the opportunity to support the local community fridge. Due to the weather, we have not managed to visit the allotment but hope to do this later in the spring.

We have enjoyed celebrating our theme 'Celebrations and Food' with activities celebrating Halloween and Fireworks. The last couple of weeks, the pupils have enjoyed our Christmas themed sensory storytelling especially pulling lots of crackers and unwrapping different gifts. We have been working hard extending our expressive language skills using aided language boards and grid communication software. This has really helped pupils to extend their sentence length and add descriptive language to their observations.

Pupils have made some lovely cards with Jen for Mini Enterprise. I hope some of you were able to purchase these at the coffee morning. They looked very professional and it is such a great opportunity for our pupils to experience work related learning tasks within the classroom.

Next term we are looking at the theme 'People Through Tme'. It would be wonderful if you have any family photos you are happy to share (especially the pupils when they were younger and older generations e.g. Grandparents.)

Finally, thank you for all your continued support this term. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Cathy, Sarah, Adriana, Sian and Leann.



Albatross Class

Term 2 has been as busy as ever, particularly with the run up to Christmas and rehearsing for our performance video! We started the term off with a visit to Rectory Farm to collect free pumpkins to carve for Halloween – the first of our celebrations. Students have focused on their targets and continued to engage in their usual weekly activities like shopping, cooking, OXSRAD and cycling etc. As well as cooking for ourselves two days a week, students have also taken turns to prepare their own individual lunches for one day. We've looked and thought about some of the important events happening over the term, including Remembrance, Anti Bullying and Children in Need. Some students cooked and decorated cakes to raffle in support of the Children in Need appeal. This term we have also been fortunate to participate in the Tim Henman Tennis Coaching sessions.

The Theme for Term 2 was very aptly '*Celebrations around the World*'. We started with a look at *Dia de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) in Mexico, which coincides with our Halloween celebrations. We have joined the commemorations for Armistice Day and created some fabulous creative pieces for the British Legion Display. We have looked at various celebrations happening around the world, such as Thanksgiving, Divali, Guru Nanak's Birthday, St Andrew's Day, Bodhi Day and Hannukah. But of course, the latter part of the term has mostly focused on preparing for Christmas!

The class hosted another very successful Coffee Morning and Christmas Craft Fair, and it's great to see the students gaining confidence in their various roles of helping to plan, prepare and support the events. The Enterprise Group hosted another very popular Bacon Roll Day. Some students have continued their work experience offsite, at the local Community Larder and the OXSRAD Café. Our PSHE sessions have focused on 'Trust' and safe and unsafe adults. Tess has also recapped on the importance of Online safety.



Albatross Class-continued

Everyone really enjoyed the School Christmas Dinner day, particularly as we also prepared and cooked some extra special trimmings and had sticky toffee pudding for dessert! Albatross also invited Lorraine and Liz to share the occasion (and Liz brought more treats!). We hope you all enjoy the Christmas Performance video!

Lastly, we all enjoyed our end of term Recreation and Leisure trip to RUSH Trampoline Park in High Wycombe which the students voted towards in Term 1. Students also had a lastminute vote between lunch at the café at the venue or a nearby McDonalds, and McDonalds won hands down! The students all behaved impeccably, so much so that a member of the public came over to say that he had never seen such a well-behaved happy group of students! Great job Albatross!

Quotes: *'I really enjoyed going to Rush Trampoline Park. I had a brilliant time, tons of bouncing and being treated to McDonalds! I really enjoyed serving tea and coffee at the Coffee Morning and rehearsing for the play.'*

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

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

