



Kingfisher Newsletter

March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a very wet first long term of the year but that hasn't stopped the learning and fun happening here at Kingfisher. Hopefully some of you have managed to attend some of the social events organised by the PFSA this term. We have had a couple of coffee mornings and the Quiz night was a great success last Friday. There has been a substantial amount of money raised over the past term that will support many different aspects of school life, as well as donations to charities.

The Fashion Show for our Phase 1 pupils was the culmination of a terms work around clothes and shoe shops. I'm not sure who had the most fun, our pupils or Kim and Heidi, who are staff members in Owl and Woodpecker Class.

We were extremely lucky to be invited to Our Lady's Abingdon school to have a sneak preview of their Matilda production. Pupils across all classes, phases and pathways were lucky enough to see the show. One member of staff who attended stated that they would happily pay for the opportunity to have seen this show. This is a link we hope to continue in future years.

For World Book Day this year we had the pleasure of welcoming some staff and pupils from Thomas Reade Primary School (next door) to come in and share reading experiences with us. This was an excellent opportunity to build positive relationships with our neighbouring school, long may this continue.

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

Dates for your Diary

Start of New Term	Monday 15 th April 2024	Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May 2024
Last Day of Term	Friday 24 th May 2025	INSET DAY	Monday 3rd June 2024
First Day of Term	Tuesday 4 th June 32024	Last Day of Term	Wednesday 24 th July 2024 (2pm finish)

Have a great Easter break

Best Wishes

Lorraine



Sensory Pathway



Flamingo Class

We have really enjoyed exploring our theme “Supermarkets”. We have explored a wide variety of products that you can buy at the shop and most of the pupils in class have been able to go for an Educational Visit to the supermarkets in Abingdon to buy the items on their shopping lists. It has been lovely to see them accessing the local community how excited they are to explore some new places.

Once we had brought our shopping back to school, we have been using what we bought as ingredients for our Sensory Story – in the story we visit a supermarket then come home and explore making a cheese and tomato sandwich. We have also been sharing a variety of picture and chapter books together, and the pupils have been really enjoying sharing stories one to one and in our small group story time sessions. Our Attention Bucket phonics sessions have been going really well - the pupils all know the bucket song so they will look towards the bucket or still and listen when they hear it and wait to see what is going to come out of the bucket.

In Maths the pupils have had a great time exploring a wide variety of objects in their own way. This has included sensory play, but also play skills including learning about toys with wheels and filling and pouring from containers. We have also been incorporating switch toys into our Maths lessons as well as our cooking and literacy – the pupils really enjoyed using a switch to blend up a smoothie and then trying a taster or smelling all the ingredients.

In Science, pupils have been on regular visits to the Sensory Garden and have been hunting for a variety of natural objects – one week we focused on colour, the next week the pupils were looking for smells and so on. As the weather continues to improve (we hope!) we will be spending more and more time outside.

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

Eleanor, Kerryann, Sally, Emma and Perri

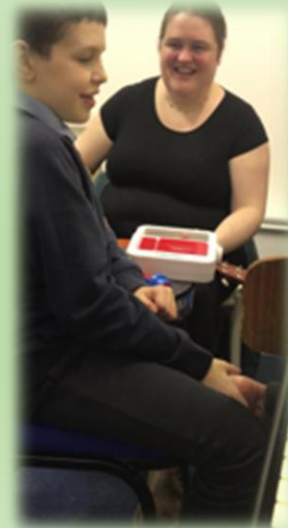


Toucan Class

We've had such a lovely term exploring our theme of Supermarkets. In Maths we have loved our role play shopping activities, which have involved us using symbols to make a choice of what we would like to buy, such as strawberries from the fruit section of our supermarket or a doll or car from the toy section. We have had lots of fun taking turns to be the cashier as well and have become very good at operating the play till, especially pushing the button to make the till drawer open and putting the money into it. Some of us have also been counting money up to 10 pence and giving the correct number of pennies to purchase an item.

As part of our phonics sessions around engaging with stories we have been visiting the school library. This has been a great success and has been enjoyed by all. We have loved sharing different books together and are becoming very good at helping adults turn the pages to read the stories and poems and finding objects on the pages. We have also been sharing 'The Disgusting Sandwich' story by Gareth Edwards and Hannah Shaw. We have really enjoyed following the story of the sandwich and have loved the sensory props we have been using. Our Sensory Story has been fun as we have been experiencing a sensory trip to the supermarket. We have been shopping with our doll, Sarah, and finding items on our shopping list from the fruit and vegetable counter, the fish counter and the cheese counter, experiencing the different tastes and smells as we shop.

One of the highlights this term has been how our friendships are continuing to grow. We have been having lots of fun playing together as part of our PSHE sessions and during structured break times. We are also very good at sharing our toys with each other.



Toucan Class - continued

Our Art has focused on making prints and we have created some lovely prints using vegetables, such as broccoli and potatoes, and fruit, such as oranges and lemons. We have used our added language boards to choose colours and have created wonderful paintings.

We have loved continuing to express ourselves through music in our singing with Clare sessions, where we use instruments to join in with the songs, and dancing with Gina. Also, our weekly visits from Trinity Choir with all the lovely props they bring to support the songs. These sessions always make us feel happy. Sarah has been playing some lovely songs for us on our class piano and we love vocalising and moving to the music as she plays and some of us indicate if we like a piece of music by clapping or vocalising.

We hope you have a lovely Easter and look forward very much to seeing you next term when our theme will be Superheroes.

Julie, Sarah, María, Lynette, Louise and Sharon



Robin Class

Our theme this term has been Supermarkets. Our sensory story this term has been The Shopping Basket by John Burningham, We have really enjoyed this story and exploring all the different foods that Steven buys when he goes to the shops. Steven gets his food stolen by lots of different animals on his way home. We have all been doing really well watching as the adult counts how many eggs and apples there are left. In phonics this term we have been looking at the sounds n and p in our phonics story. Our story follows Masie as she finds different things that start with these letters. Our favourite was the net that Masie found - we enjoyed feeling the texture of it.

In Maths this term we have been continuing our theme of Supermarkets. We have been practising reaching across the midline of our body whilst holding onto objects to fill shopping bags. Some of us have been doing so well with this that we have started following adults' instructions to fill our shopping bags with specific objects. We have also been learning to exchange money for our favourite things in a role play shop in class. Some of us have been doing well finding the same note as the one the adult is showing us.

In sensory cooking this term we have been making chocolate Easter nests. We have really enjoyed exploring all the different ingredients, especially the chocolate, We also practised using both hands to crumble the Weetabix. This term we have enjoyed our visits from Trinity Church and some of us even went and visited them for an Easter Experience. We really enjoyed all the different songs and sensory objects we were given to feel. In PE and Dance this term we have been learning to reach upwards, In PE we have been practising reaching to take the blocks off the top of the pole and we have all done so well at this.

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



Core Pathway

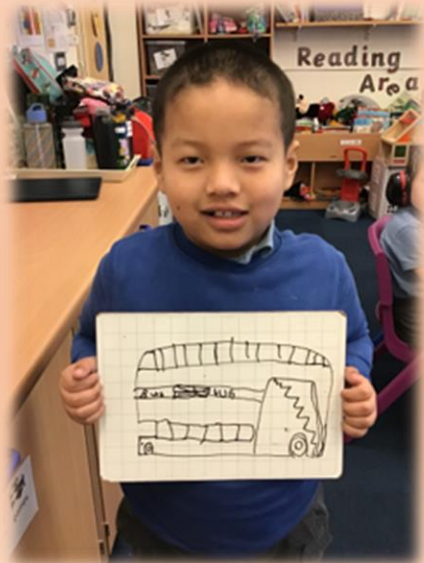


Hawk Class

This term we had the opportunity to go to Our Lady's Abingdon, to watch their production of Matilda the musical. We were so impressed with the children who followed all instructions and managed to sit and focus for a considerably long period of time. Another highlight of our term was the Phase 1 fashion show. In our Art and D.T sessions, the pupils used different materials to create items of clothing, e.g. ties/ socks/ jewellery. The pupils then showcased their work in a fashion show. It was brilliant to see the children so confident and proud of their work and their poses were great too!

Hawk Class have been hard at work this half term learning through our theme 'Clothes and Shoe Shops.' We studied three texts including The Smartest Giant in Town, Odd Sock poem and Pete the Cat's Easter Adventure. We used our comprehension skills to sequence, create phrases and sentences about the texts. During our Phonics sessions we have been practising reading and writing phonemes and best friends. Some of us have been reading from our set story books and showing our understanding through comprehension and writing short sentences.

As part of our thematic learning this term we have learnt about signs and symbols in the environment and direction. Pupils identified signs and symbols in the environment whilst on a learning walk. All pupils could distinguish the difference between male and female toilets and could identify the 'stop' and 'no entry' symbol. Most pupils could identify the fire exit sign and some pupils could even explain what it meant.



Hawk Class - continued

In Science we have been learning about materials. Some pupils practised displaying information in a venn diagram and some pupils sorted materials into different groups. All pupils learnt about the properties of materials and were able to describe materials using scientific language with visual support.

In Maths this term we focused on Calculation and Measurement. In Calculation we focused on simple addition and subtraction whilst in Measurement we learnt about time. Some of us learnt about the passage of time and daily routines, whilst others began to use an analogue clock to identify and make times using o'clock and half past.

Now that the sunshine has come out, it has been great to see the pupils playing so nicely together on the field. Children have been initiating and playing games such as Duck Duck Goose, Hide and Seek and What's the Time Mr Wolf. We hope you have a fantastic Easter break,

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



Eagle Class

Term 4 has been another busy one for Eagle Class. You may have noticed that your children are beginning to speak Spanish really well! We have been so lucky to have Gal, the teacher from Macaw Class, to help us learn the language and the children are becoming experts at rolling their 'r's in a Spanish way. Each morning, they take the register in Spanish using sign language as well. The children can also ask each other whether they would like a school dinner or a packed lunch in Spanish too. We have been very impressed with their enthusiasm and determination to get the pronunciation right. When they meet Gal around school, they always greet him in Spanish and ask him how he is feeling.

For our Geography topic we have been learning about shops in the 'Market Place' vs 'Online' shopping. We visited Abingdon town centre to take notes on which shops were there and what we could buy in each shop. The children then did a comparison to see which of the shops they could access online. The children had a great time in town - it was a very sociable time where we all met people we knew to chat to. After we had completed our work on the shops, we called into the library to select some books to bring back to class. As always, the children were well behaved and very polite, such a credit to you all.

As promised, we have managed to send all of the children to the Radley Animal Centre. This term has been particularly special as some of them have had the opportunity to feed and cuddle the lambs.

One of our favourite trips this term has been to OLA to see their production of 'Matilda'. It was astonishing how good the show was. The children commented that it was 'like going to a real show in London'. I have to agree with them, it was brilliant. The staff at OLA were so helpful and welcoming and even sent minibuses to help all of the children at Kingfisher that were able to go, get there. The children wrote great thank you letters and drew some fabulous pictures which really showed their enjoyment.



Eagle Class - continued

Two class members went with Albatross Class to the Unipart Consumer Challenge Quiz. It was a fierce competition between ourselves and another school in our Trust, Fitzwaryn. They were equal in first place and had to have a tie-breaker question which Fitzwaryn got right! So, congratulations to them and really well done to our team for coming so close to being first. Great fun was had by everyone.

Our most recent trip was to Blenheim Palace to explore the Adventure Playground. What an amazing place it is too. The children had a great time using all the equipment. Both children and staff had a fabulous time trying out all the apparatus, the zip wire was definitely a firm favourite with everyone. If you get the chance to visit over the Easter holidays, we would rate it 10 out of 10.

We would also like to thank all of you for attending our coffee morning. The children have been so keen to share their work and adventures with you. We loved making cakes for you too. We hope that we can have another coffee morning in Term 5 – watch out for the invite.

We wish you all a great Easter break.

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



Communication Pathway



Macaw Class

What an incredible term Macaw Class has had. This term's theme "Clothes and Shoe Shops" has been incredibly popular and it has been full of events. One of the celebrations this term was Worlds Book Day where the entire Macaw Class dressed up and enjoyed a full day around books and stories in different kinds of ways: we had the sensory story of Aliens Love Underpants, we explored some sensory books, pupils from the school next door came and read some books for us and we also explored some stories with the use of technology.

Pupils have loved art as it has involved experiencing lots of textures to create different clothing from earrings, to socks, t-shirts and bracelets. We created some beautiful Cancer Support ribbon bracelets to support our lovely Mel on Brave the Shave and then, of course, for our fashion show.

Phase One pupils decided to host a fashion show for parents and friends to show all their hard work and raise some money for our outdoor area. Pupils will be going on a school trip to buy their choice of outdoor equipment and we managed to raise £150. Well done Phase One!

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

Macaw Class had the opportunity, thanks to Lel and OLA, to experience an incredible show "Matilda the Musical". It was a beautiful experience and the pupils enjoyed it incredibly. The welcome we had in the school from the staff and pupils was outstanding and it will be difficult to forget such an experience.

Our lovely Emily is leaving us to travel before she starts her university adventure to become a doctor, so as much as we are incredibly proud that she has secured herself an amazing place for Newcastle University, she will be terribly missed by all of us.

Have a lovely Easter Holidays,

Macaw Class Team: Marie, Ali, Emily and Gal



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 clothes and shoe shops, designing and looking at different patterns and styles. The children have explored different types of materials grouping them according to which are soft, and which are rough. In Science the children have looked at materials of clothing that are the same and are different in colour and patterns.

The children have been cooking up a storm this term making fruit smoothies, toasties, sweet toasties using fruit, pineapple, cheese and chocolate sauce. It was enjoyment all around.. The children have been learning the story of 'The Smartest Giant in Town' and actions that are related to it. They have been looking at the clothing items the Giant wears and dressing up in our dressing up clothes. They also have enjoyed playing shops in the role play area, looking at the different dresses and clothing items they can buy using play money.

I think their favourite thing this term was designing their own T-shirts, socks and earrings. They were new and exciting, full of colour. The children loved the tie dye and creating shapes to make the earrings. The children then performed in a fashion show, displaying all the wonderful items they had made. They had a blast!

In Maths the children have been learning about Measure looking at routines and time, what happens in the day, what happens at night. They have sorted pictures, looked at and followed the classroom routines and completing tasks that happen at different points throughout the day. The children have continued with their daily counting to 10 forwards and backwards. In Calculation the children have also been looking at money and exploring different coins. We have used these coins when exchanging with the cashier to buy clothing or an item of food in our shop.

The children have had an exciting term. They have been learning lots of new songs, using the signs and symbols to choose the songs that we would like to play.

In swimming we have continued 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



Woodpecker Class

Woodpecker Class have been working hard this term on a range of activities. The pupils seemed to have enjoyed our theme “Clothes and Shoe Shops”. We have explored several texts in English including a sensory story, media texts and a poem. These have all related to the theme and have given the pupils a chance to experience different clothes and shoes in a variety of ways. We have continued to work on our phonics targets, blending sounds and identifying sounds within 1:1 settings as well as a group session with our phonics story and the use of props to match with different sounds.

During Maths this term we have explored the topics money and time, the pupils worked hard in matching, identifying and sorting coins as well as working on exchanging coins for an item that linked with our theme “shops”. The pupils seem to enjoy exploring money in several ways, as well as having the opportunity to understand what money is used for. During our sessions on Time, we worked on exploring our routine in school, with the use of a clear timetable and giving the opportunity to pupils to understand key times of the day with the use of pictures.

We have also explored the term’s theme by creating a clothes shop, linking with Maths and English learning topics as well as working on fine motor skills with the use of different clothing that have zips, buttons and poppers. Pupils have also experienced sorting tasks to identify a variety of clothes as well as linking in with Science, exploring materials which have included silk, wool and cotton. Within our Geography sessions we had fun creating a road map on the classroom floor, following simple directions and travelling round to explore different areas of the road. This was great fun and all pupils engaged well in this activity.

We, as a class, continue to work hard on looking after our environment by using our jobs rota and supporting the pupils to take part in work related and independent living skills. We have also continued with our WOW moments at the end of the day. The pupils seem to engage well knowing they have worked hard in their school day and celebrating with a song to end the day. Well done Woodpecker Class! It has been a very busy term.

Next term we will be looking at the theme “Superheroes”. If you can have a look at any books or even talk about the people who help us to show that not all Superheroes wear capes, that would be great.

Have a lovely Easter break.

Many thanks from Woodpecker team

Jen, Heidi, Sophie & Rebecca



Penguin Class

Hi All, I hope this newsletter finds you well as we reach Easter. Our theme for the term has been 'At the Shops' and we've had great fun keeping busy with activities ranging from devising our own sweet toasties (jam, banana and marshmallow anyone?) through to trips to ALDI or the Radley Countryside Centre.

Our three texts for the term were 'A Dress with Pockets' (Poetry), 'Farmer's Market Day' (Non-Fiction) and 'Once Upon a Time Online' (Fiction). Pupils enjoyed all three and particularly had fun trying on everything from a fairy costume to a Mister Blobby outfit when reading our first text! As usual we also worked on comprehension tasks and mark making as well as exploring rhyming words and furthering our sentence construction.

In Maths we've been working on Calculation (sequences and matching and pairing) as well as Measures including time. Within this, pupils have been thinking about 1 more and less, number bonds to 10 and 20, sequencing numbers to 20 and 100 and sequencing daily routines, days of the week and months of the year.

Over at the swimming pool our swimming teacher Angela has been really pleased to see our pupils continuing to make such brilliant progress, particularly with their breaststroke arms and legs.

As hinted above, we have had the opportunity to make many of our topic and science lessons practical, both onsite and off. What better a way to discuss features of animals than to go to the farm and feed newborn lambs!

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

From Amelia, Kate, Teresa, Pauline, Jennifer, Leann and Richard



Heron Class

Our theme this term has been 'Marketplace vs Online Shopping'. We have been focusing on where we can shop online, and in the community, and what we can find in these shops.

Within Storytime, the students enjoyed reading the poetry story 'A Dress with Pockets', a fiction text 'Once Upon a Time Online' and a non-fiction text 'Farmers Market Day'. The pupils really enjoyed learning about what you can find and buy in different types of shops and what people can do in different shops. They enjoyed exploring the props and looking at online shopping websites to browse, role playing what they would buy. We have also been shopping in Aldi, collecting items from our shopping list, and learning about different symbols in the community for Geography. I have been very pleased with the pupils' engagement levels when finding the items on the shopping list.

Within PSHE, pupils have been learning about healthy and unhealthy relationships, focusing on who would need our help, who we can ask for help and how we ask for help. We have also been learning how to use the internet safely, choosing what we would like to explore using an aided language board. The adult would show the pupil how to use the different websites to play games, shop, browse and learn. The pupils loved sending emails to Leann to say hello and playing interactive games.

The pupils have really enjoyed our sessions with the PAT dog, they have been gentle when stroking and it has relaxed them. The pupils really enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day & watching Matilda the Musical at OLA. I would recommend taking your child to see a show in the half term, if at all possible. We hope you have a great Easter break! 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 some of our students were able to visit OLA for their dress rehearsal of Matilda. Joshua blew our socks off, joining in with all the songs. At the end of the week, we have a Post 16 trip to Hollywood Bowl and an Easter egg hunt, both of which will be lovely ways to finish off the term.

We have enjoyed celebrating our theme 'Shopping', in Art creating some Andy Warhol pop up artwork and in group, practising our signing of different fruits. In Maths, we have looked at the topic Time with activities focused on daily routines. This term we have continued with Attention Bucket sessions run by Amelia and continue to be impressed with pupil engagement.

Vocational learning continues to be a large part of our weekly timetable and pupils have participated 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. For World Book Day, we completed learning activities linked to the story 'Sam's Sandwich'. We made our own bread which was thankfully free from creepie crawlies.

Next term we are looking at the theme ' Superheroes' Please share any favourite books the young people may have linked to this topic. Alternatively, they may have someone special in their lives who are a real-life superhero to them - we would love to know!

Thank you for all your continued support,

Have a lovely Easter Break, fingers crossed for some sunshine.

Cathy, Sarah, Adriana, Sian and Louise.



Albatross Class

Term 4 got off to a great start in Albatross with a recap of the continuing Chinese New Year celebrations, culminating in creating our very own Chinese restaurant and preparing a Chinese meal, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all! Albatross pupils have continued to share all class duties and jobs, as well as developing their independence skills via shopping, cooking and preparing lunches. We have continued with our individual Literacy and Math targets with a particular focus on both Time and Measure. Students have used their creative skills to produce some beautiful cards based on the art works of Georgia O'Keefe, as well their own designs. We have made use of the Karaoke Machine purchased with Enterprise funds to host the 'Noble's Talent Awards', as well as for our own enjoyment. It is clear that some students are really growing in confidence and are happy to perform!

The Theme for Term 4 was *'Market V Online Shopping'*. We began our new theme with firstly thinking about Agriculture in general and the different types of farming, including Arable, Pastoral and Intensive. We have looked more closely about the shops and services which are available to us locally and those available in the city. We have thought about the convenience of online shopping but have listed pros and cons for both visiting the shops and shopping online. We are mostly in agreement that it is better to have a balance of the two.

Tracey Rodgers (Schools Advisor for DWP) has continued to come into school each week to take sessions, focussing on preparing for job roles, applications and mock interviews. PSHE sessions lead by Tess have covered intimate and sexual relationships more closely with a focus on student-led questions. Online Safety has looked at issues around posting inappropriate material and images.



Albatross Class - continued

The class has hosted two Coffee Mornings this term, firstly 'Brave the Shave' in support of Breast Cancer Awareness and also the Fashion Show, which also supported the RED Nose Day event. This term the Enterprise Group hosted a slightly easier Bacon Roll Day due to the term being so extra busy! Two Albatross and two Eagle students represented our school at this year's Consumer Challenge Quiz and the class went along to support and cheer on their team. The whole class visited the Kassam for this year's Careers Fest. Students were able to ask a range of questions to employers and some students even had a go at learning some new skills! Some students have engaged in work experience both on and offsite and we have been planning and preparing for our next work placements now the weather is improving. We look forward to some exciting new opportunities ahead, as well as further future College visits.

The class enjoyed a visit to Our Ladies Anningdon, in order to see the first showing of their performance of Matilda which was absolutely amazing!

Lastly, we have ended the term with a well-deserved recreation & leisure trip to the Hollywood Bowl (including lunch) which the students voted for.

Quotes: *"I enjoyed the Consumer Challenge Quiz because it was the day I stepped out of my comfort zone"* *"I loved Matilda, it was amazing!"*

Happy Easter break!

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

