

PROPELLER ACADEMY TRUST  
Fitzwaryn

*'Through learning to learn, pupils will access society'*

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Dear Parents and Carers

Once again we have had an extremely busy term! The children have enjoyed going on trips and visits and being out and about. It was such a shame that we had to cancel sports day due to the heat, and with the snow earlier in the year we have had many extremes of weather to contend with! I do hope that the sunshine stays so that you can all enjoy the summer break.

As always at this time of the year we look back on all that has been achieved and look forward to the next academic year. As you know, the year began with two awards; the School of the Year Award presented to us by the charity 'Against Breast Cancer' and the award presented to us from the County Music Service for 'Most Inclusive Choir'

I am delighted to report that the year ends with **two more awards**:

We have recently been awarded the Basic Skills mark for the 6<sup>th</sup> time, this award covers both Primary and Secondary age groups and looks at the quality of the teaching and learning within Literacy, Numeracy and ICT. The assessor was impressed with the provision across the school and reports: *'There is very robust self-evaluation of the School Development Plan (SDP) and the quality of teaching and learning across the school. This enables senior leaders to have an excellent whole school strategic approach to ensuring that there is outstanding provision in all areas of the school. The acquisition of basic skills in communication and literacy and mathematics is at the heart of all that the school seeks to achieve for its' students'*.

We have also just heard that we have been awarded the highest grade – **GOLD** for the Schools Games award. Pupils have worked hard in their PE lessons and have participated in many sporting activities both on and off site. This year, we have introduced a 'Real PE' scheme that we will continue to develop over the next year. The assessors found the following evidence: *'The school had a portfolio of evidence in place to support all areas of the Mark award and the validation highlighted strength in many areas of their School Games programme. The validation highlighted that the school was offering a very strong sports programme across all areas of the award.'*

As you know we have been working towards the revalidation of our International Award – we have submitted our evidence and hope to hear very soon whether we have achieved it! Fingers crossed! I will of course keep you posted.



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Along with the excellent quality of teaching and learning that goes on each and every day there have been many many highlights over the year – here is a reminder of just a few:

- Wonderful choir performances at the Mayor's Carol Service, at Wantage summer festival choir evening and alongside our mainstream partner schools at Stockham School. Following one of the events, a member of the public sent in the following email: *'Once again it was my privilege to listen to your school choir. This time at the Festival choir night at the Beacon. It was so lovely to have such a vibrant choir starting the night which really set the evening off with a bang! It was a pleasure to watch them enjoy singing so much and the confidence of ALL those soloists was inspiring.'*
- Shakespeare for Schools Festival – Upper School's performance of 'Macbeth' in November.
- The Christmas productions and Cedar, Ash and Hazel class' summer performance of 'Peter Pan'.
- Many, many sporting events; Panathlons, Oxford Town and Gown, trip to the Olympic pool in London and the Vale Dance festival to name but a few.
- Fitzwaryn's Got Talent!
- Fundraising events including Children in Need, Sport Relief and not forgetting the fabulous fete in June!
- Oxford's Junior Strictly dance competition.
- Two residential trips – Holly class trip to Woodlands activity centre and The Student Centre trip to Holland - one in the snow and one in the sunshine!
- We welcomed many visitors to school to enhance the curriculum offer including sculpture workshops and science workshops.
- The Post 16 Information Fair was a success and one that we will be repeating on a two yearly cycle I'm sure.
- Horticulture has been a great success. Pupils have been growing, cooking and tasting the produce that they planted!
- Holiday Club has been a huge success this year with many of the pupils enjoying fun packed days with their friends! Once again we have all places filled for the days during the summer and I know that there are exciting things on offer!

In addition to the new build, we have undertaken a complete reorganisation of our office spaces. The works that have been completed to date have already made a significant difference to the staff involved. The final piece of work (for now!) will be the refurbishment of the staffroom facilities in the near future.

As always at this time of year, there are members of staff who are leaving us. This term we say goodbye to Mrs Higton, Mrs Seddon, Miss Garratt, Mrs Howard (and her son Aiden), Miss Graham and Miss Buckel. I would like to wish them all the very best of luck for their futures and do hope that they all keep in touch with us!

We would also like to congratulate Miss Quinn who is getting married in the holidays – she will return in September as Mrs Gordon – we hope that she and her husband to be have a wonderful wedding day!

Now for some news from each of our classes:

### **Maple Class**

The children in Maple Class have had a fantastic two terms learning about Minibeasts. We have found out about many different types and their habitats, listened to sensory stories and enjoyed many successful bug hunts outside. We have been busy learning how to be kind to animals and some of us will now let our class stick insects walk over our hands! We have enjoyed watching worms in our wormery and are now excited for our caterpillars to emerge as butterflies.

The children have all made such progress during this academic year, communicating with others, sitting as a group and sharing activities together. We could not be prouder of their amazing achievements!



### **Beech Class**

We have had so much fun this year in Beech Class! Our topics have been Travel & Journeys, Superheroes and In the Garden! We have particularly enjoyed our cooking sessions this year, and have made lots of delicious dishes. We enjoyed learning about Canada for our international award, and we know some facts about Polar Bears now! Our latest topic 'In the Garden' has meant we have had the opportunity to grow our own fruit and vegetables in the garden such as Strawberries, Peppers, Tomatoes, Potatoes, Beans and Mint. We have loved watching them grow! We have recently made a 3D garden model using a shoebox and lots of different materials. We really loved doing this and got glue everywhere! We are looking forward to our trip to Blenheim Palace at the end of the term!



### **Cedar Class**

This term Cedar Class have been busy learning the story of Peter Pan and preparing for the Key Stage 2 performance of Peter Pan. We have also been learning about the solar system and created our own planets made of Paper Mache. Cooking has continued to be a highlight and after spending some time making dishes from Commonwealth countries we are now enjoying revisiting our favourite recipes of the year including Macaroni Cheese, Spaghetti Bolognese and Pizza!



## **Hazel Class**

We have had a busy but brilliant Summer Term in Hazel Class, the time has flown by! We have all really enjoyed our class topic of Peter Pan and especially loved performing our play to our friends and family. The pupils have produced some lovely writing linked to our topic and have also been working hard on their number skills. During International Week we spent time learning lots of interesting facts about our nominated country, Sri Lanka; this also included producing some Sri Lankan themed art and learning traditional dances. We enjoyed welcoming pupils from other classes to sample our homemade fruit teas and Sri Lankan delicacies on our International Day. Hazel Class have also enjoyed making the most of the lovely weather by playing cricket outside; we were also inspired to have a go at recreating the England football team's success at penalty shoot outs! Everyone in Hazel Class would like to wish you a lovely summer holidays.



## **Ash Class**

Ash Class have had a fantastic few weeks linked to the topic for the term – Peter Pan. This has culminated in a KS2 performance. The class rose to the occasion and produced an incredible performance for parents. All the pupils recalled their lines and any stage directions required. They had a brilliant time and we are all extremely proud of them!



## **Pine Class**

We've had another busy term in Pine Class. In Science we have learned about rocks, their properties and uses and we are excited about our end of term fossil dig! We have looked at nature in Art and made our own collages in the style of Andy Goldsworthy, which we have displayed in our classroom. We have grown our own carrots in Horticulture and even made delicious carrot lollies. We have had lots of different themes for Big Write, including making fudge in a bag and writing our own instructions to make it and also writing postcards during our seaside theme. We have enjoyed our International theme, learning more about our class country, Uganda. We even learned a traditional Ugandan dance to perform at Sports day.



## Rowan Class

This term in Rowan Class we have had an overarching theme of The Great Outdoors. This led us to research and discover many exciting facts about the work of Andy Goldsworthy and we had a go at creating our own interpretations of his work. In science we have been learning about what plants need to stay alive and have been using our findings in horticulture. Our topic for English has been based around nature, some of us have been learning about David Attenborough whilst the rest of us have been thinking about what it would be like to visit the seaside. We have learned how to write different instructions and have recounted some of the different beach themed activities that we participated in. We have also enjoyed learning about India for the international schools award. We did lots of art related work as well as doing some research and fact finding. Our favourite thing was cooking and eating some Indian dishes.



## Chestnut Class

We have had a great summer term in Chestnut Class. The theme for this term was The Great Outdoors and we have been learning all about plants and rocks in Science. We have also been working on compass and map skills in geography and learned about different famous explorers in History. In Big Write we have done some work around autobiographies and have been imagining going down to the bottom of the ocean, which the pupils have really enjoyed. We have also looked at Bear Grylls and David Attenborough and have been writing about their lives. We have carried on our theme in art and have gone outside to draw lifelike pictures of flowers and used natural materials to create pictures and patterns on canvases. In addition to this we have been doing work around Malta for the international week including learning a traditional Maltese dance.



## Holly Class

As always we have been very busy in Holly Class. The Year 11 students had very successful work experience placements. They worked hard and everyone said how hard working and polite they were. The other students enjoyed our International week, learning all about the Solomon Islands. The students continue to work hard on their accreditation and have coped very well in this hot weather!!



## **Student Centre**

Water has played a major part in the fun of the Student Centre this term! All students participated in the Rivertime Accessible Regatta at Bisham Abbey and took part in the boat race. Several also independently went onto the river in double kayaks. Whilst some of us were exploring Holland, Spruce enjoyed a barge trip from Hungerford to Great Bedwyn. It was hard work for some as they assisted at the locks and took turns at the tiller.

The visit to Holland was a highlight of the term and students went out of their comfort zones to embrace new experiences like the speed boat trip, water slides and trying out their Dutch language skills! House-sharing with other young adults was excellent preparation for the future and gave an opportunity to practise important independent living skills.

Cooking and hosting skills have been further developed this term as we welcomed some residents of Stirlings Care Home for lunch at the Student Centre. This inter-generational link has been both beneficial and fun for young and old alike! Spruce also enjoyed visiting them at Stirlings when we went to meet the chicks the residents were rearing.

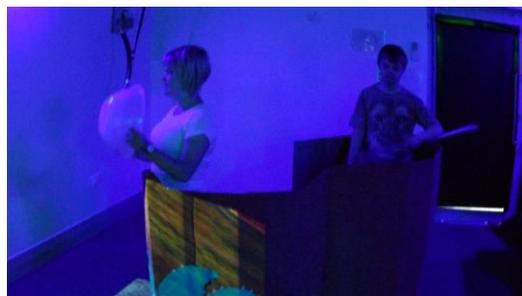
Back in the Student Centre we have been tracking the progress of the teams in the World Cup. We have located countries on a map and kept a score sheet. We have also been very busy finishing off the second edition of our magazine, 'The Voice' ready for publication before the holidays. Some of the students attended the Prom in Witney, along with others from Kingfisher, Springfield and Abingdon and Witney College. There was lots of dancing, eating and buying non-alcoholic drinks at the bar!

At the end of term we say goodbye and good luck to Elliott, Kuran, Kyle and Rhiannon as they move onto new adventures at college in September. We wish them all the very best as they become increasingly independent young adults and develop their skills further. We're really looking forward to hearing how they're all getting on!



## **Sensory Theatre**

We have continued to use and adapt our amazing facilities to enhance our children's experiences of the world around them as well as providing sensory stimulation.



Beech Class have been using the theatre to support their learning in Science lessons. They have been learning to identify parts of plants, different flowers, trees and the changing seasons.



Cedar Class have been sending a small group of children to experience the sensory elements of the theatre and have used the interactive floor and lighting systems to experience cause and effect.

Upper school have learned about David Attenborough and Bear Grylls and have been 'into the deep' and 'to the seaside'. They especially enjoyed fishing, making fudge and building sandcastles!



As we come to the close of one academic year, we are very busy planning for the next; we look forward to working in our new classrooms and welcoming our new staff and pupils – I hope that they are very happy with us. The new playground equipment will be installed over the holidays which will considerably enhance the outside areas and improve playtimes for all!

There is a fantastic staff at Fitzwaryn; everyone makes a significant contribution to the whole team, they all work hard (and at times over and above!) to enable the pupils to experience as many opportunities as they can and I am sure that you will join me in wishing them a well-deserved summer break!

A reminder that Term 1 begins on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September** for all pupils (term dates for 2018 - 2019 are on the website)

So it just remains for me to say that I hope that you all have a very happy summer holiday and look forward to seeing you all again very soon!

A note from Julie Mabberley, Chair of Governors:

It doesn't seem like a whole year since I became Chair of Governors. It has been busy but very rewarding. We've recruited two new Parent Governors, Cathy Jury and Tamara Harris and had a busy time working with the Trustees of the Propeller Academy Trust. Much more importantly, we have been working with the staff and pupils in our school. It's been a difficult term because of the weather but the staff have been working very hard to ensure that everyone remained as comfortable as possible.

Mrs Coneboy has listed all of the many activities and awards achieved this year and I'm sure that you will join us in a very big thank you to all of the staff in the school for the

excellent work that they do, both in school hours and with all the extracurricular activities.  
We are very lucky to have them.  
We look forward to next term and we are sure that the new pupils and staff will soon become part of our happy family and contribute to our outstanding school.

With best wishes

Stephanie Coneboy  
Headteacher