

PROPELLER ACADEMY TRUST  
Fitzwaryn

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

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Dear Parents/Carers

It seems that the weeks are flying by and each week is packed full of exciting things happening at school.

### Shakespeare for Schools Festival

Last week pupils from Upper and Senior School performed at the Headington Theatre as part of the National Shakespeare for Schools festival

<https://www.shakespeareschools.org/about-us>

The play this year was 'The Comedy of Errors'. As you can imagine, this performance was a culmination of months of hard work preparing and rehearsing. The plot, as with many of Shakespeare's work, was complex and the pupils certainly rose to the challenge and produced a brilliant performance. Taking part in a project such as this not only helps with communication skills but it also enhances so many other important skills including team working, social skills, skills around performing to an audience in a theatre and of course literacy skills; learning all about Shakespeare and his works.

All of the pupils who took part were amazing and we have received some lovely feedback from people who were at the event. Here are a few comments that the children have made following their performance:

'It was amazing because we get so much of an audience' 'It was a great experience', 'It was funny and historical and it was nice to learn about a new play', 'I was nervous to begin with but fine on the night', 'I liked seeing the other schools', 'I felt proud at the end', 'I was nervous but then excited on stage'.  
Thank you to everyone who supported this event by buying tickets.

It is the first year that Miss Jane who teaches in Chestnut Class has lead the project so congratulations must go to her and her team of staff who ably assisted her.

### Sixth Form Lunch

For those of you who have been able to sample some of the sixth form cakes at coffee mornings, you will know how good they are at baking and running events. Last week, the students used their entertaining skills once again when they



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welcomed residents from Stirlings Residential Home for a delicious homemade lunch. Our students made everyone extremely welcome and it was wonderful to see how this intergenerational event is developing.

### Remembrance

Pupils were learning about Remembrance ahead of the 100 year anniversary of the end of WW1. Students in the sixth form made their own tribute by installing a piece of art on the outside of their building. A picture of it was added to the tributes in the Oxford Mail on Monday.

<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/17215870.poppypride-your-pics-and-tributes-for-armistice-day/>

### Author visit

On October 29<sup>th</sup> a local author, Dr Bill Egginton, visited us to read us his latest book – Olive's Ocean. We all enjoyed hearing his new story and thinking about how we can prevent plastic going into the ocean. Bill also presented each class with a signed copy of his new book.

### Children in Need

This Friday it is Children in Need and you should have received a letter outlining the day. Holly Class has been busy organising activities throughout the day and we are all looking forward to seeing the pupils dressed up as a character from 'Disney' for a £2 donation. The day will culminate in 'Fitzwaryn's Got Talent'.

### Festival of Lights

Some of the pupils from Upper School, Senior School and the Student Centre worked with artists before the half term break to produce a large lantern in the form of King Alfred – you will be able to see the lantern at Parents Evening. On Friday, we will be in Oxford parading through the streets with our lantern lit up as part of the Festival of Lights celebration <https://www.oxfordschristmas.com/> Mrs Taylor who has organised the event has sent a separate letter out giving details of this wonderful event.

Even if your child did not participate in the making of the lantern and you would like to join the procession on Friday evening, please get in touch with the school office should you wish to know more!

### FitzKids

Once again, FitzKids was a great success during the half term break. Lots of fun was had by all who attended. Fitzkids is running from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> January and Mrs Taylor has sent out information about this already.

### Anti - Bullying Week

This week it is National Anti - Bullying week <https://www.bullying.co.uk/anti-bullying-week/> and the pupils will be exploring this topic in their classroom discussions and within their circle times.

Fitzwaryn does not have any recorded incidents of bullying but we do take the issue very seriously and include activities into the curriculum where it is appropriate to do so. You will find information about the School Development Plan on the website and you will see that E Safety is a priority.

[http://www.fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk/statutory/school\\_development\\_plan/](http://www.fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk/statutory/school_development_plan/)

We are linking in with a company called 'Gooseberry Planet' <http://gooseberryplanet.com/> and will be sending out useful information in due course. In the meantime, if you have any queries around this area in relation to supporting your child, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

### Uniform

I have been asked by staff to mention that some of the older girls are coming to school with extremely long nails. Their long nails are then making it difficult for them to carry out their school work effectively. Please can I ask that nails are kept at a sensible length for school?

Please can I also ask that all items of clothing are clearly marked? It is getting to the time of the year that many items of clothing are being worn to school due to the cold weather and it is difficult to marry up lost property with the rightful owners if it is not named.

### Friends of Fitzwaryn events

This term is very busy for fundraising as we run up to Christmas.

- The Friends of Fitzwaryn Christmas Bingo night is on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – entry is by ticket only. The event is free but you can apply for a ticket from the school office. Thank you for the donations that have already started to come in, your help with this is much appreciated.
- The Friends are running a Chocolate Tombola at Wantage Dickensian Evening – last year's event raised over £600 which was amazing! Donations of chocolate are starting to come in so thank you for those. If you can spare half an hour on the evening of 7<sup>th</sup> December to help run the stall, please could you let Mrs Wilkins know in the school office?
- The Children's Christmas Party and Disco is on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 6pm. Tickets are on sale from the school office at £5 per child.

I am really looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Parents Evening on Wednesday - Please contact school if you have not made an appointment yet, it is not too late.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries at all.

Best wishes

Stephanie Coneboy  
Headteacher

### **Dates for your diary:**

Coffee morning – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December

### Christmas Performances:

- Lower School - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December – 2pm
- Upper School/Senior School – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – 2pm

The Choir will be performing at the Mayors Christmas Carol concert being held at the Parish Church in Wantage on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December – more details to follow.

Christmas Dinner for the pupils (excluding the Student Centre) will be on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December – children can wear their festive jumpers in exchange for £1 donation to Save the Children

End of term assembly and carols round the tree is on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm

Class teachers are busy planning various trips and visits this term – more details will be coming out via individual classes.

Kind regards

Stephanie Coneboy  
**Headteacher**