

PROPELLER ACADEMY TRUST
Fitzwaryn

'Through learning to learn, pupils will access society'

Headteacher:
MRS. S CONEBOY B.Ed.(Hons.)
Chair of Governors:
Mrs J Maberley



Denchworth Road
Wantage
Oxon
OX12 9ET

Telephone: (01235) 764504
E.mail:
office.7027@fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk

VAT 175 3789 64

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, one more full day tomorrow, Wednesday, and we'll have reached the end of Term 4! The time has certainly whizzed by - back in January, it wasn't quite the start of the new year that we had imagined but here we are nearly at Easter!

It is lovely to see signs that the warmer weather and lighter evenings are on the way! We are so looking forward to the further lifting of lockdown during the holidays which will hopefully make life easier for us all.

It has been such a joy to see most pupils and staff back in school and we look forward to welcoming back those who have been shielding after the holidays, all being well.

Please take some time to respond to the Annual Parent Questionnaire, your views are really important to us! If you require a paper copy, please contact us and we will be more than happy to provide you with one.

Testing of secondary aged children and staff - Twice weekly testing will need to continue over the holidays for these groups of the school community. If you need more testing kits, please let us know and we can provide you with them.

Please ensure that a Lateral Flow Test is taken the evening before returning to school on 19th April.

The classrooms have been very busy and the pupils very active, accessing the outdoor areas for their learning as much as possible. Please read about some of the lovely things that the pupils have been doing!

From Maple Class

It has been wonderful to have all the pupils back in school for the past few weeks and we have really got stuck into our Topic of 'On the Farm'. Pupils have been learning about what jobs there are on a farm and have participated in lots of role play. We have helped to wash vegetables, plant seeds, wash and feed the animals and in Art we have been making our own farm animal costumes; we are just putting the final touches to them!



Registered Office: Fitzwaryn School, Denchworth Road, Wantage, Oxon OX12 9ET
Tel: 01235 764504 Website: www.pract.org.uk
Corporation Registration No. 8340120

We have also been learning about where our food comes from and what grows on a farm. Pupils have also begun to plant a variety of vegetable and flowers ready for the better weather. We'll be learning how to look after them next term!



From Beech Class

In Beech class, we have had a great term! All the children were thrilled to return to class and reunite with their friends for a fun-filled time!

Like Maple class, our topic has been 'On the Farm', which the children have really engaged with and they have learnt lots about life on a farm. We have learnt about the different jobs on a farm, including washing and feeding the animals, sewing seeds, watering plants and pulling up vegetables. It was all great fun, and some children are keen to have a go on a real farm! In DT we have been making farm animal costumes. Children have made choices about which animal they would like to dress up as and have been using glue, materials and paper to construct our costumes! We are all very excited to see what the finished product will be like at the end of term! We have been exploring habitats in Science and have spent time making observations in the sensory garden. Some children were very curious and looked under logs to find minibeasts and were able to explain what the habitat conditions were like. In English, the children have been working hard on their handwriting and have shown some great progress when mark making and writing their names!



From Cedar Class

Cedar class have enjoyed doing dragon activities based around the book 'There was an old dragon who swallowed a knight' this term. We have created eggs and designed the dragons we hope will hatch from them, and written instruction leaflets about how to look after them. We are now writing our own versions of the story with a whole range of interesting characters in them! We have also made lots of beautiful dragon artwork.



From Hazel Class

Hazel class have had a busy term and it has been lovely to welcome back lots of smiling faces! The topic this term was dragons and pupils have been exploring their creative writing skills. They have played around with different adjectives and produced some wonderful short stories! Hazel class have also enjoyed lots of craft activities, building on maths skills, playing a variety of group games and making the most of the outdoor space. Well done Hazel class!



From Ash Class

It has been lovely to welcome back all our pupils to Ash class. It was obviously a very different start to the school term than we have been used to, but the pupils have all settled back into the class together well. Our topic this term was Africa and we have been learning about the different environments there, some of the animals that live there and how they have adapted to live in the desert and the savanna. A highlight for us has been playing board games together. The children have thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and are working well together.



From Willow Class

This term the pupils have really enjoyed learning all about the continent of Africa. In English, we have been reading the story 'We're going on a Lion hunt' by David Axtell. The pupils have been looking carefully at the events in the story in order to write their own versions. The pupils have enjoyed looking at different animals in Science. They have been exploring their natural habitats and diets and comparing the wildlife in Africa to wildlife in Wantage. In ICT, the pupils have been developing their touch-typing skills using the 'Dance mat typing' game on BBC Bitesize. We aim to develop this further next term.



From Pine Class

Pine class have had a busy term! We have been learning all about Scottish Mythical Creatures. We learnt about the Loch Ness Monster, Selkies, Wulver and the Blue Men of Minch. The pupils have created their own mythical creatures! We also learnt about the history of Scotland and have designed and made our own tartan. The pupils have enjoyed creating their own stop motion animation films!



From Rowan Class

We have been very busy in Rowan class this term. The pupils have all been working hard, whether at home or in school and it is great to see that they have all settled back in to school life. They have enjoyed our topics of Space and Scottish Mythical Beasts and have taken part in lots of different lessons, including making an animation using Stop Go Motion in our computing lessons. They have loved learning about and writing descriptions of Mythical Beasts in English. In Science they have been really interested in learning more about electricity. We have been investigating which materials are conductors and using this information the pupils planned an experiment to make their own switch in a circuit.



From Senior School

What a different term we have had in the senior school, but we are happy now that the majority of the children are back and we have really enjoyed our topic – 7 Wonders of the World! We have been writing information texts in English and have enjoyed learning texts by heart using actions and maps to help us! Our focus for Maths this term has been measuring using different units and number! We have learnt various new skills through our topic work. Both classes have enjoyed learning Samba music with Mrs Gordon and have performed these to the school via Teams! With Miss Watkins, both classes have been learning all about Indian art, and had different sections of a piece of art to draw or upscale. We have also been using oil pastels to create an Indian inspired colour palette. We have enjoyed learning about The Great Wall of China in History. Did you know it takes 175 days to walk from the start to the finish? Neither did we!

All staff in the Senior School would like to wish all of our pupils and their families a very Happy Easter and we look forward to welcoming you back after the holidays to get stuck in with our International topic!



Student Centre – written by Lily and Skye

We have had a very busy term and it is great that we are all now back together after time apart. It has been great to see everyone.

In the Student Centre we celebrated Saints David's Day and we made Welsh cakes. Saint David is the Patron Saint of Wales.

For World Book Day we drew tigers and painted stripes on pencil cases and read a book about the tigers. We linked this in with our theme of the day which was India, we had a delicious Indian meal for lunch.

In PE we played football rounders in the hall and we were in teams. Some of the players got knocked out by the ball when it was caught. We worked together as a team with communication, cheering and listening skills. The important skill was communication to make sure not to run someone out. Myself and Sophie scored the most rounders causing excitement and cheering lots from our team mates.

For our Takeaway Enterprise we made sausage rolls for the staff, some requested veggie, gluten free and vegan. We catered for all dietary requirements. We skinned the sausages and wrapped them up in pastry before cooking in the oven. We all wore hats, t-shirts and aprons for our business and we all looked professional.

Last week we celebrated Saint Patrick's Day.

We looked at a PowerPoint about Saint Patrick who is the patron Saint of Ireland, we watched Irish dancing and we made hats. The Irish leaf is called the shamrock and stands for father, son and holy spirit. At lunchtime we had Irish food and a surprise for pudding. The surprise was a pint of "Guinness" it was fake beer made from blackcurrant jelly and cream. We had fun pretending to be in the pub and cheersing each other.



Message from Julie Mabberley, Chair of Governors

"We started the term with approximately half of the pupils in the school for a large part of the time, many pupils having work sent home and our staff juggling face to face curriculum and contact. It's good to know that we now have most pupils back and life is returning slowly to some degree of normality. Even the Governors might be back in school by the end of next term!

In the meantime we want to thank all the staff for keeping us all focused on the education of our pupils both at home and at school; their enthusiasm and dedication is fantastic and we wish them a well-earned break over the Easter holiday."

It just leaves me to wish **all of our community**, a very happy Spring Break. I hope that the sun shines so we can all get out and about and enjoy the fresh air safely!

I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 19th April

With very best wishes,

Stephanie Coneboy
Headteacher