

PROPELLER ACADEMY TRUST  
Fitzwaryn

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

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Dear Parents/Carers

As the Autumn term comes to a close, it is time to reflect on an extremely busy term! In this newsletter, you will be able to read some of the amazing things that have happened in each of the classes and see images of smiling, happy children enjoying their learning!

Of course, I couldn't possibly pick a highlight of the term; for me every day is a highlight when I see children busy at work and hear positive feedback from the many visitors to the school as well as from the children themselves when they tell me how much they love their learning and coming to school!

I would like to once again thank my dedicated staff for the work that they do every day to ensure the curriculum meets the needs of all of the children in the school.

### Fundraising

It has been a busy term for fundraising activities; the pupils raised an amazing £115.20 for Children in Need and for those of you who attended the Christmas Bingo run by the Friends of Fitzwaryn, the grand total is £580.40! The Friends will add that to the pot, all proceeds will go towards the redevelopment of the library. Thank you to you all for donating prizes and attending the event itself.

The Friends also organised for people from The Funky Teapot

<https://www.thefunkyteapot.co.uk/> to come into school and make Christmas baubles with the children who had ordered them – The Student Centre ably hosted the workshop and good fun was had by all!

### Staffing News

It is always with a degree of sadness when we say goodbye to staff members. As you know, Samantha Robson and Alexandra Miller will be leaving us at the end of term; both are long serving members of staff and I would like to thank them both for their dedication and the commitment to the school they have shown over the years that they have been here. I wish them and their families all the very best for the future.



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## Maple Class



We have had a great first term in Maple Class. All of the new children have settled into life at Fitzwaryn really well and some great new friendships are developing. Our first topic was 'All about Me' and in maths we did some amazing work on measure using bricks to see how tall the children in Maple Class are. We have also been working really hard on our handwriting this term with all children making really great progress. Our second topic this term has been muck mess and mixtures and the children have loved it. In cookery especially, children have really enjoyed making smoothies, mixing cakes and exploring vegetables to make soups. In Art the children have been working hard on learning how to mix colours, ask us how to make orange, green and purple we are getting better and better at knowing our colours. The children have also been working really hard on their communication and every child has made great progress communicating with adults and their friends.

## Beech Class



In Beech Class, we have had a fantastic first term! New and existing members of the class have all settled in well and are forming some great friendships. Our first topic this year was 'All about Me' where we made self-portraits in art and used our hands to measure our height in maths! We also did lots of talking and thinking about what it means to be a good friend and how we can show our friends kindness. Our next topic this term has been 'Muck, mess and mixtures!' The children have enjoyed getting stuck into this topic and had great fun exploring different mixes, especially smoothie and bread making! In English, we have been looking at 'We're going on a bear hunt' and have enjoyed exploring and acting out this text in the Sensory Theatre!

## Cedar Class



In Cedar Class we have enjoyed the topics 'All about Me' and 'Dr Seuss'. Some of our favourite activities have included; drawing the Cat in Hat, learning the 'Bone' song, following routes on maps to find the lost ducks and cooking lots of different recipes on a Friday morning. On a Monday afternoon, we have been practising our coin work at 'Mrs Rixon's shop' and are looking forward to putting this into practice at the Student Centre's Present Palace.

### Hazel Class



All the pupils in Hazel Class have settled in well and they have had a wonderful autumn term. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed both the Lego and Cat in the Hat topic. Pupils have had great fun creating; Lego films, making back drops for their films in art, identify rhyming words and making fun rhyming sentences, finding out fun facts about the world and making posters, racing cars using magnets, group letter writing and much more! Pupils also filled the star jar through all their hard work and enjoyed a morning out to Swings and Smiles. Hazel Class have all been fantastic swimmers this term too! They have all worked really hard on following instructions and safety rules in the pool and really started to improve their swimming skills. All pupils have also worked extremely hard with getting dressed independently too, well done Hazel Class!

### Ash Class



It's been a great term in Ash Class. The children have been really engaged with our topic 'The Cat in The Hat'. As part of this the class have enjoyed studying nonsense poetry and using poetic techniques in their own writing. Waseem said, 'I like making up my own rhymes'. In Topic we have looked at countries around the world that 'The Cat in The Hat' might like to visit. The children had lots of fun making their own compasses using a bowl of water and a leaf, as well as, building their own world maps. A favourite lesson for all involved bubble painting hair for 'Thing 1' and 'Thing 2' in Art. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

## Willow Class



We have had a wonderful start to the academic year in Willow Class. The pupils have really settled in. They have been working hard. They really enjoyed the Lego Topic, making art and sculptures out of Lego. They enjoyed forces, magnets, Light and Dark in science. This term our topic has been Cat in the Hat. We have done lots of poetry and it has linked really well to our phonics work, which all pupils in Willow Class have made great progress in.

## Pine Class



It has been a busy first term in Pine Class. Before half term we have been learning about The Tempest and preparing for our performance of the play in November. The pupils did an amazing job and performed confidently in front of the audience at the Cornerstone Theatre! After half term, our topic has been Brunel. We have been looking at how trains work and in science we have been using our problem solving skills to invent different things to solve problems. We have also been looking at non-fiction writing and have written our own fact books all about what we have learnt about trains.

## Rowan Class



It has been an action packed term in Rowan Class! We started off the year by rehearsing and then performing Shakespeare's play The Tempest. If you were there, I'm sure you'll agree that they all did a wonderful job. After the highs of Shakespeare, we began a term on inventors, specifically looking at Brunel's invention of the railway. They loved creating

their own train out of junk model, and becoming inventors themselves by creating solutions to the various problems they were presented with. Now, we are winding down for Christmas and looking forward to visiting Blenheim Palace for our Alice in Wonderland festive indoor trail before a well-deserved rest over the Christmas break!

### Chestnut Class



Chestnut has had a wonderful start to the year. We have been working hard on gaining credits for our ASDAN accreditation and we can't wait to see what other challenges we have waiting for us. Our favourite day of the week is always a Wednesday because we get to cook for each other and then have a feast at lunch time. Many pupils have said "We love cooking on a Wednesday and the food is always so amazing!" Pupils have also enjoyed a trip to see 'The Christmas Carol' in Cirencester and it gave them some wonderful ideas for their characters when performing it for the Upper School Christmas performance. Chestnut would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

### Holly Class



We have had a busy term in Holly Class. The pupils have been working hard on their ASDAN curriculum including learning about adaptation in Science and extending their creative and practical skills in the Home Management module. Pupils have also really enjoyed cooking and serving lunches on Wednesdays; we have sampled cuisines from around the world and have focussed on healthy meals with lots of vegetables! Holly Class have been working closely with Chestnut Class this term; our Maths and English groups have both been working hard on extending and applying key skills. Our literacy focus this term has been A Christmas Carol; the pupils all thoroughly enjoyed a trip to the theatre to see it performed live and are looking forward to their own production at the end of term!

### Student Centre



No sooner were we back after the summer holidays, then we were off on our first adventure of the year: bell boating on the Thames at Moulsoford! It was challenging, exciting and loads of fun, a great start to our year. We have continued our range of Student Enterprises (Horticulture, TakeAway Crafts and Upcycling) and this has enabled students' practical skills and confidence to grow. Students from Kingfisher have joined us on a weekly basis. Our participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is ongoing. We are very proud that 88% of the students have gained their Bronze Award and we are looking forward to embarking on our Silver journey in the New Year! Students have commented that completing the award made them 'proud', 'more confident' and 'able to do things I didn't know I could': a fantastic achievement! Volunteering is now the norm in the Student Centre and our most-able readers continue to support younger pupils throughout the school. NOCN Accredited work is going really well. Folders are a delight to mark as the students take such great care over the presentation of their folders. All our Year 14s now have work experience placements ready to commence after the break. We have enjoyed reading our class book 'Gangsta Granny' and comparing it to the film adaptation. We are embedding a love of reading into our curriculum and plan a monthly visit to Wantage library. Our inter-generational link with the residents at Stirling's grows ever stronger. Three of our students visit the home on a fortnightly basis and we hosted a wonderful lunch and games afternoon. We are planning a joint trip to Millet's to see the ice rink. Christmas is fast approaching and we are all looking forward to a trip to Blenheim Lights in the last week of term, fuelled by hot chocolate and Bratwurst!

### **Sensory Theatre**



The sensory theatre has been very busy this term with many classes coming in to use the theatre each week! As part of our in reach programme we have also been visited by two local primary schools who wanted to experience the cold winter snow, dinosaurs and the solar system in order to support their written topic work.

Maple and Beech classes have using the theatre to support their Science lessons. In Term 1 they looked at the human body, senses and what we need to survive, and in Term 2 they experienced the different seasons and enjoyed listening to the Bear Hunt story and experiencing the sensory aspects of mud, water, grass and leaves. Some of the children have also enjoyed exploring the specialist sensory resources during these sessions. Cedar class explored sensory objects relating to the different senses such as sight, touch and sound, and had to choose their favourite object each week in order to help them to understand that people have different likes and dislikes.

### **Message from the Chair of Governors, Mrs Julie Maberley**

2019 has been a very busy year in school and as we come up to the Christmas holidays the Governors would like to express their thanks to the excellent staff in the school who work extremely hard to ensure that the children continue to receive an outstanding education in a peaceful and happy environment. We must also give our thanks to Parent Governors Tamara Harris and Cathy Jury who have both resigned because of increasing work pressures. They have both been valuable members of the Governing Team. We welcome Alan Bennett as a new Grand-Parent Governor in the new year taking Cathy's place and we will be sending out a request for a new Parent Governor in the New Year to replace

Tamara so please consider if you would like to join us as a School Governor and help us to support the school.

**Reminder:** Pupils and staff return to school on Monday 6th January 2020.

If I don't get to see you at the end of term events, I hope that you all enjoy some wonderfully happy times during the school holidays.

With very best wishes

Stephanie Coneboy  
Headteacher