

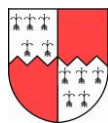
PROPELLER ACADEMY TRUST
Fitzwaryn

'Through learning to learn, pupils will access society'

Headteacher:
MRS. S CONEBOY B.Ed.(Hons.)

Chair of Governors:
Mrs J Maberley

Telephone: (01235) 764504
Email: office.7027@fitzwarryn.oxon.sch.uk



Denchworth Road
Wantage
Oxon
OX12 9ET

VAT 175 3789 64

Dear Parents and Carers

First of all, a huge thank you to all for being so supportive of our decisions in recent weeks. It is reassuring to us as a staff team that we have such a supportive parent body behind us, so thank you!

Once again, I must praise the staff team – they have all been utterly amazing! We have had several new staff join us who have settled in well and we have a few more joining us in the New Year. We welcome them to our team and hope that they are very happy here.

I hope that this end of year newsletter brings much cheer to you! When you read all of the achievements of the pupils, they are sure to bring a huge smile to your faces! Please share the joy with your friends and family.

Maple Class

The children in Maple Class have made an exceptional start to the year. Our returning pupils have made great progress and our new pupils have settled in brilliantly. We have enjoyed our two topics so far – Julia Donaldson and Celebrations Around the World. Some highlights have included exploring harvest in RE in term 1. The children learnt about how and where our food grows and how we make bread. We all took part in some wonderful role play of the story The Giant Turnip and made pumpkin soup in cookery. This term we have been exploring some of the different celebrations that happen at this time of year. We have learnt about Bonfire night, Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas and the pupils have been making art work inspired by these celebrations across the term.



Beech Class

In Beech Class, we have had a wonderful term! Pupils have formed friendships and we are all looking forward to spending the rest of the year as part of 'Team Beech'!



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

Our topic this term has been Celebrations Around the World, which the pupils have thoroughly enjoyed. We have explored lots of celebrations from different cultures and religions. The pupils have made Diya lamps out of clay, menorahs, and firework paintings! In maths, we have been problem solving and some pupils have been thinking about real-life problems such as pouring and knowing when to stop! We have also had lots of fun in the horticulture area, where the children used a range of tools, including watering cans and wheelbarrows. Our highlight of this term has to be our Nativity play! The pupils have worked so hard during rehearsals, creating props, and preparing the set. We are all very proud of the production and what the pupils have achieved!



Cedar Class

Cedar Class has been busy this term. Our topic has been the Romans and we have enjoyed learning interesting facts about Roman soldiers and Gladiators. We have had fun dressing up as Romans and making our own Roman helmets. We have built Roman bridges and created mosaics. In English we have been recounting stories and have become experts in sequencing and reciting our favourites! We are all getting excited for Christmas and have been practicing our song for our Christmas performance. We have also enjoyed playing the drums to We Will Rock You and Christmas songs.



Hazel Class

We have had a brilliant first term in Hazel Class. We have enjoyed getting to know each other and some lovely friendships are forming within the class. Our topics have been 'Pirates' and 'Romans'. Some highlights include exploring the world map, planning a journey for a pirate and investigating which material would keep 'Pirate Midge's' treasure dry – it was lots of fun pouring water on different materials! Hazel Class have shown that they are great at retelling stories using puppets and story telling language; we adapted the Enormous Turnip to make it a Pirate story (The Enormous Treasure Chest). We loved dressing up in Roman Togas, making Roman chariots and comparing these with the clothes and vehicles from today. We have been developing money and addition skills throughout the term and the class shop is regularly open for business, the pupils like purchasing their paper, felt tips and toys from the shop. For Children in Need, we were impressed with the cheerful and determined attitude everyone had when running half a mile. Well done Hazel Class!



Ash Class

It has been a lot of fun in Ash Class this term. The pupils have enjoyed learning about Romans and have created their own versions of some of the Roman's longer lasting inventions such as bridges and roads. In English, we have been practising writing recounts and had lots of fun going on an 'Ash Class adventure' each Thursday afternoon before writing a recount of what happened. The pupils have all proved to be excellent shoppers at the Ash Class shop and practised using their counting and addition skills during the shopping sessions. The Ash Class staff are all very proud of all the progress the children have made.



Willow Class

This term the pupils have really enjoyed learning all about the 'The Titanic'. In History, the pupils learnt some fun facts about the Titanic and explored how ships were designed and built in the 1900s. In PSHE, the pupils have been developing their knowledge of the world they live in, with a focus on preparing for adulthood and money management. They have enjoyed exploring and discussing different job roles and shared their aspirations for the future. A highlight for the pupils this term was turning Willow class into a café. The pupils came up with a name and designed all the menus as a class. Some of the pupils had the opportunity to walk to the local supermarket with a budget of £1 to spend on a sweet treat to sell at the café. Mmmmm! Delicious! Finally, the pupils have thoroughly enjoyed developing their performance skills by learning to sign and sing to a Christmas song. They have worked hard to remember all the lyrics and key signs.



Pine Class

It has been lovely to welcome back lots of smiling faces to Pine Class! We have had two busy terms and enjoyed a variety of activities. Pupils have looked at artists from around the world, created self-portraits in art, researched different countries, created fact files in Geography, looked at rules across different religions and carried out Titanic research tasks using laptops. Pupils have also engaged fantastically with Personal, Social and Independence skills sessions. In these sessions, pupils have all made great progress with independently making beans on toast, their conversation skills and road safety

awareness. In English, pupils have produced some beautiful diary entries for their writing and they are all scoring top marks in their weekly spelling tests too. In maths, pupils have worked hard on their number skills and enjoyed active maths lessons outside. Pine Class were also fantastic runners for Children in Need and ran many laps of the track to raise money. Pupils were even lucky enough to get snow this term and played beautifully together having a snowball fight!



Rowan Class

Rowan Class have had a busy first term! Our topics have been Diversity and the Titanic. We have been learning about different religions, countries, and cultures and how we can respect others that may be different to us. In Art we have been learning about different artists around the world and have produced some amazing pieces of art in the style of these artists. In History we have learnt all about the Titanic and the timeline of events surrounding it. In computing we have been researching facts about the Titanic on the internet and in Music we have been making a Christmas music video. The pupils have also been busy writing diaries about what it might be like on board the Titanic and learning rhyme through the poem 'Macavity'.



Senior School

We have had a busy start to the academic year in Senior School! In English we have had a big focus on narrative and the pupils have enjoyed writing their own versions of a quest narrative, we have learnt about Cinquain poems and diary entries too! In Maths we have focused on the Number strand but introduced a problem solving and reasoning lesson too, which the pupils really enjoy! Our new Personal, Social and Independence lessons have been a huge hit, with both pupils and staff! Some pupils plan a lunch once a week and go to the shop to buy the ingredients, then on a Thursday they cook for all pupils in Senior School. We have had a term of sausage and mash, and a term of Pizza! Yum! Another group visit a café once a week and have been learning how to place an order, using eye contact, manners and ensuring they have enough money for what they would like! The third group have been going out and about in the local community learning how to cross the road safely and have also gone further afield to places such as Didcot, Faringdon and Abingdon!

This term we have been putting together a pantomime, "Cinderella!". The pupils have worked so hard towards this and we can't wait to perform it! An exciting two terms for us all in Senior School!



Student Centre

Wow! What a wonderful, busy few months it has been in the Student Centre. We kicked off our enterprises for this year starting with the Macmillan Coffee Morning, where we made lots of delicious cakes to sell, raising nearly £400 for a great cause. Our other enterprises have included organising the Christmas card competitions and the sale of cards, Present Palace, running a staff take away lunch and our Christmas hampers. PE this term has included lots of teamwork and leadership as many of the students led a team sport of their choice. This term has also seen us return to using the facilities at King Alfred's, where we have had the choice of doing either badminton, basketball or swimming.

As well as doing some work around internet safety we have also been looking at road safety. This was important as we have been doing a lot of walking around the local area – we walk to do our shopping, have walked to KA's and have even walked to the Bay Tree for our lunch to celebrate a few 18th birthdays!

We are going to finish the term by cooking our Christmas dinner followed by a visit to the theatre to see School of Rock! We are all very excited!



A thank you message from Julie Mabberley, Chair of Governors

We thought that 2020 was bad but the lockdown and the slow recovery in early 2021 was equally difficult for us all. This term has also been challenging for the staff in school with shortages of staff meaning some class closures and everyone having to work extra hard. The Governors would like to express their thanks even more than usual to the excellent staff in the school who have worked extremely hard to ensure that the children continue to receive an outstanding education in a safe environment.

We must also give our thanks to Governors Elizabeth Green and Marion Evans who decided to leave the Governing body in July after serving on the Board for a number of years. We will miss them both. Just recently Andrew Smith, who only joined us last year has resigned due to changes in his circumstances so thank you to him too.

Rachel Wenham (one of our Staff Governors) has also resigned from the Board as her roles in the school are taking up much more time so we hope that a new Staff Governor will join us soon. We have to give a special thank you to both Rachel and Jane Pierce (our other Staff Governor) who have put so much time and effort into being school governors as well as working so hard in class.

We have recently welcomed Wayne Tica as a new Community Governor (even though he is also a Parent) and we look forward to seeing him around school when it is safe to do so. As you can see, we still have vacancies on the Board so if you know anyone who might be interested in joining us, please let me know.

The Governors have still been working remotely most of the time with very limited visits to school. We're hoping that we will be able to get back to normal working sometime in the new year so that we can support the staff more directly face to face.

In the meantime, we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and send best wishes for a healthy 2022.

It just leaves me to wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday, we look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school on **Wednesday 5th January 2022.**
With very best wishes

Stephanie Coneboy
Headteacher