

March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

This term seems to have gone by so quickly but you will see from the news from the classes that we have packed lots into it, both inside and outside the classrooms!

I have seen so many lovely things this term and every day I feel so proud of the achievements of our wonderful pupils. As always, I must thank the dedicated staff we have at Fitzwaryn – and wish them all a very well deserved break.

I hope that you enjoy reading about this term's work and look forward to seeing some of you at the coffee morning tomorrow, 31st March.

Maple Class and Beech Class

Beech and Maple have had a fun-filled Spring term with lots of exciting activities, but we have to highlight our farm day! Pupils and staff came to school in their farming gear ready for a day of learning about “all things farm” and getting messy. We invited a local farmer into school who shared with us what her day looks like, including lots of lovely videos of the animals on her farm. Pupils then asked pre-prepared questions to Farmer Sophie. We conducted a science experiment of milking a ‘cow’ and we churned the milk ourselves to make butter. Pupils tried the butter with homemade bread and we can confirm it was delicious! Other activities on the day included caring for animals and planting crops in the polytunnel. Overall, both Beech and Maple had a fantastic day and fun was had by all!



Cedar Class

Terms 3 and 4 were all about Earth and Space for Cedar class students. We explored our Milky Way including the Sun and planets. We have learnt that it takes 28 days for the moon to orbit the Earth. We even made our own Earth and moons after careful planning in DT. In Science we carried

out an interesting comparative test between different soil types. We discovered that sandy soil is best at absorbing water. In English we enjoyed reading the story of 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy. The best part was creating our own spaceship using a cardboard box to take off into space. Sequencing this story was fun! In Maths we learnt about 2D and 3D shapes and fractions. We cut up hot cross buns to learn how to share one equally between 2 or 4 people, creating halves and quarters and we ate them too! Well done Cedar Class!



Hazel Class

Hazel Class have had lots of fun learning about Earth and Space in terms 3 and 4. Some of their favourite activities have included learning all about the planets, designing and building their own planet, creating geographical features scrap books and creating space themed computer games on Purple Mash. They have also been spending time playing games in groups with different friends from Hazel Class and this has allowed some to develop their leadership skills taking it in turns to choose and lead a game. It has been lovely to see them all enjoying playing games with different friends each week. Well done Hazel class!



Ash Class

Ash class has had a fantastic term! The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed exploring our Space topic and creating their own planets using different media and techniques. The pupils have studied historical figures such as Neil Armstrong, learning lots of interesting key facts about him. Our focus in PSI has been to learn how to brush our teeth. All pupils have made excellent progress and are continuing to become more independent with this task. Some of our highlights this term have been Comic Relief, swimming and the snow arriving! All pupils in Ash class continue to make excellent progress with their communication and social skills, which is lovely to see. Well done Ash Class!



Willow Class

Willow class have been working hard to prepare for their Romeo and Juliet production, with singing, acting and dance rehearsals. They have been working on their signs for the songs, learning the lyrics, remembering their lines and developing their movement memory. They are excited to welcome their family today to watch their performance.

Willow class have also been learning about healthy eating and have enjoyed exercising on their bikes on Wednesday afternoons. Well done Willow Class!



Rowan Class

We've had another busy term in Rowan Class. We enjoyed learning about 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Adventures'. In English, we have learnt the story of Romeo and Juliet and have been writing our own stories based on Aaron Becker's 'Journey'. In Maths we have been working on our problem solving and have enjoyed learning about fractions using food. In History, we have learnt all about famous modern-day explorers and in Geography we have been learning how to read maps. We have also been practising hard for our performance of Romeo and Juliet and have been busy making props, sets and preparing costumes. Well done, Rowan Class!



Pine Class

Pine class had a very busy term and really enjoyed the 'Adventure' topic. Pupils have been on a virtual trip to the Antarctica to learn about Ernest Shackleton, boarded a sailing boat and went on a trip around the world to learn about Ellen McArthur and blasted off into space to find out facts about Neil Armstrong. Pupils recalled lots of facts about each explorer and got top marks in a class quiz! In English, Pine class used their imaginations when exploring a wordless book called 'Journey'. They worked together to add dialogue to each page during group readings and then they used their own magic red pencil to change the narrative by drawing something new on a chosen page.

The whole class took part in a week of swimming this term and they all made huge progress over the week and demonstrated their ability to follow instructions and all felt very proud of their swimming achievements. Pine class have also been working extremely hard with the rest of KS3 to learn lines, songs and dances for a Shakespeare performance alongside making props. Well done, Pine Class!



Senior School - Chestnut Class and Holly Class

This term Senior School have been catching the bus as part of their PSI work. It has been a really successful module and pupils have been able to ask for their tickets, check their change and safely get on and off the bus. It has been a delight seeing them all grow in confidence and independence and we are proud of the progress that they have all made.



As part of our English work we wrote an alternative ending to our class story – Kensuke’s Kingdom. The ideas that the pupils had were fantastic and imaginative. They are really developing their writing skills and using paragraphs and correct punctuation. We even shared our endings with Mrs. Coneboy who was very impressed. In guided reading a small group of pupils are reading Malala and answering comprehension questions about the story. It is fascinating and based on a true story. We are also seeing excellent progress in our phonics lessons. Some pupils have been planning and cooking every week, and their independence skills are developing. We plan to continue this next term to embed their learning. It has been a fantastic term with lots of learning, laughter and progress – well done to Senior School!

Student Centre

It has been another busy term in the Student Centre, which has seen the students working hard and increasing their independence within the home and community. This has included completing their Open Award units: household shopping, gardening for pleasure and everyday food and drink preparation. They have then had the opportunity to apply skills learned by participating in our student enterprise projects, which this term have included preparing staff lunches and planning and planting hanging baskets.

The students have really enjoyed preparing and hosting our coffee mornings. These events give them a great opportunity to demonstrate their application of the different Skillsbuilder skills which include independence, speaking, listening, aiming high, staying positive, teamwork, leadership, staying positive and creativity.

They have continued to work hard in their Functional Skills Maths and English lessons and have applied these skills to all areas of Student Centre life. This term has seen students build up their stamina in readiness so they can complete the physical section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award, to be able to run/walk 5km.

The students who chose to go to see the Noughts and Crosses play in Oxford really enjoyed the whole experience and were keen to tell everyone about it when they got back to school. The trip has enriched our PSHE lessons which have covered a similar content to the novel.



In Other News:

World Book Day

We all had a wonderful World book day this year! The pupils came dressed up in some fantastic costumes and enjoyed a day full of activities. Rowan class set up the 'Turn the page bookshop' and all pupils had the opportunity to collect their World Book Day book. Each class also recreated their favourite book and they were displayed in the library for all to enjoy!



Weekly PE lessons at KA's – written by Ben and Robert

We go to KA's every Tuesday to join in their PE lessons. We have done different sports including rugby, basketball, badminton and ultimate frisbee. We love going as it is fun, we enjoy chatting and socialising with the other students and we enjoy playing the sports with them. We have also caught the public bus there and this has helped us with our Personal Social and Independence lessons too.

Handball match against Kingfisher School

A group of pupils from the Senior School went to Kingfisher for a handball training session and match. We had been training hard for the event and had a wonderful time. Kingfisher students were really welcoming and friendly and we enjoyed spending breaktime with them, socialising and eating snacks. We played lots of mini matches, this gave everyone the opportunity to take part. We had some excellent throwing, rolling and scoring goals. The team worked well together, and it was such a successful morning. Well done to all who took part and a big thank you to Kingfisher for hosting it. We hope that they will return to us in the summer term to play a different sport.



Bowling Panathlon at Kassam Stadium



Senior School had a fantastic time taking part in a bowling competition at the Kassam Stadium. The pupils all did brilliantly, patiently waiting for their turn, cheering on their peers and other schools and perfecting their bowling technique. It was a fantastic event, and they are all thrilled about their achievements, proudly shown in the photograph with their medals and certificates.

Staffing News

This term we have welcomed Stacey Seigel (Willow) Louise Cobb (Beech) and Sharon Wilkinson (Chestnut) to the teaching team. We have also welcomed Jo Evans to the front office and a number of new Teaching Assistants.

This week we say goodbye and good luck to Charlotte Watkins (Chestnut Class) as she takes up a post outside teaching. We also wish her well for her upcoming wedding! We also say goodbye to Hayley Watts (TA in Pine) and Alisha Innis Lewis (TA in Maple) We thank them all for their work here at Fitzwaryn and wish them lots of luck for the future!

Jessica Cox goes off on maternity leave to have her first baby and I am delighted to announce that Kate Green gave birth to a baby girl last week!

As you know Mr Slatter has been seconded to Kingfisher to support a gap in the leadership team due to staff absence. He will be continuing with this role but splitting his time between the two schools after the holidays.

We are still recruiting TAs so if you know of anyone who would like to come and join us, please share the link to the advertisement on our website.

Friends of Fitzwaryn - Bingo and Rags to Riches

Thank you very much for supporting the recent Bingo event held at school by either donating or coming to the event itself (or both!)

I am delighted to say that we raised an amazing **£441.55**

We also raised **£51.44** by donating your bags of unwanted clothes etc.

Friends of Fitzwaryn have agreed for the funding to be spent on a sensory experience for some of our pupils later in the year, from which I am sure they will all benefit.

Please look out for further information from Friends of Fitzwaryn for future fundraising events!
If you or you know anyone who would like to join the group, or you have any fundraising ideas please let us know!

Period Products

Ossa Buckle (HSLW) has informed me that we have a number of period products that have been donated from the local WI, please let us know if you would like us to send some home.

Mrs Bun the Baker visit – thank you to the Wednesday Afternoon Tea Group in Grove

We would like to thank the Wednesday Afternoon Tea Group in Grove for their kind donation to us of £150 which will go towards a day of activities we have planned today. In particular, this will help fund workshops for Maple and Beech classes who are looking forward to a visit from a wonderful local baker (Mrs. Bun), who will be visiting for a practical session and to share her experiences with the children. The plan is for the children to take part in bread making – so we look forward to delicious smells, and a taste, if we're lucky!



Message from Wayne Tica – Chair of Governors

As we draw towards the Easter holiday, this also marks the end of my first full school Term as Chair of Governors. In February, we held the inaugural Fitzwaryn “Governor Day”, where the whole Local Governing Board spent most of a school day at Fitzwaryn listening to informative staff presentations covering English and Maths curriculum development, pathway through life/careers, and attendance. All Governors agreed the day was an excellent initiative and should definitely be repeated every year.

Having reflected on this last Term, the stand-out point for me is just how much amazing work the school and staff do (and continue to do) for the students and their families in these extremely tough and challenging times. This is only possible through the dedication and hard work of every member of staff within Fitzwaryn and the Propeller Trust behind them.

Not only that, the willingness and generosity of the parents/PTA to organise, contribute towards, and attend all the various fundraising events – is equally fantastic. And it's not just the financial benefit. Having a community of parents that engage with, and enjoy being part of the success of the school is just as important.

Fitzwaryn is an outstanding school because it's a community of outstanding people.

I look forward to what next term has to offer.

Dates for your diary

Friday 31st March – coffee morning in the Student Centre

Monday 3rd April – Thursday 6th April – Fitz Kids – Holiday Club activities

Monday 17th April – pupils return after the break

Friday 28th April – coffee morning in the Student Centre

Monday 1st May – Bank Holiday

Wednesday 3rd May – Careers Fair

Friday 5th May – celebrations for the King's Coronation – more details to follow

Monday 8th May – Additional Bank Holiday

Monday 15th – Friday 19th – Science week – more details to follow

Thursday 18th – Friday 19th – Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition

Saturday 20th May – Fitzwaryn takes over Wantage and Grove Park Run!!

Friday 26th May – coffee morning in the Student Centre

Friday 26th May – Break up for half-term (3.15pm)

Thursday 1st June and Friday 2nd June – Fitz Kids Holiday Club activities

Monday 5th June – INSET day – no pupils at school

Tuesday 6th June – Pupils return to school

Saturday 17th June – Grove Extravaganza (where Friends of Fitzwaryn will have a fundraising stall)

Friday 30th June – coffee morning in the Student Centre

Thursday 6th July – sports day – more details to follow – (13th July back-up date in case of bad weather postponement)

Tuesday 18th July – Awards Evening (more details to follow)

Friday 21st July – End of term 3.15pm

Monday 31st July – 4th August and 21st August – 25th August – Fitz Kids Holiday Club activities

As always, should you have any queries about your child at school, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via the school office.

I hope that you all enjoy the holidays, hopefully in some Spring sunshine and I look forward to seeing the pupils back in school on **Monday 17th April** for another fun-filled term!

Stephanie Coneboy
Headteacher