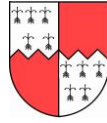


PROPELLER ACADEMY TRUST
Fitzwaryn

'Through learning to learn, pupils will access society'

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Dear Parents and Carers

We have had an exceptionally busy couple of terms at Fitzwaryn since we returned after the summer break, and the pupils have achieved so much! I couldn't possibly pick one thing as the standout moment but having the privilege of seeing some of the hard work coming together in the Christmas performances and activities over the last few days has made me feel a very proud headteacher.

Once again, I must thank the wonderful staff for all of their hard work and commitment. Before we all go off on our holidays over the festive season, I have asked the class teachers to write a short piece from their classes; we hope that you enjoy the read, please share the good news with family members and friends as there is so much to celebrate!

Maple Class

We have had a fantastic Terms 1 and 2 this year. New pupils have settled quickly and everyone got stuck into our topic 'Our Wonderful World'. We spent Term 1 learning about different environments around the world, comparing the Jungle environments with the Arctic, the Desert and Under the Sea. Since half term we have been learning about Earth and Space and role playing being an astronaut! Everyone has joined in brilliantly and created some wonderful work. Our solar system hats for Children in Need were a particular highlight!



Beech Class

We had a great Autumn Term which has been full of lots of lovely experiences. We welcomed a new friend to the school and many new friends into Beech Class, everyone has settled in so well. We have been busy learning and having lots of fun working on our topic of 'Our Wonderful World', creating lots of lovely work. We travelled to lots of different places looking at their environments in geography and blasted off into space

during our history lessons. We have been very creative and have enjoyed lots of role play and exploratory work. Have a lovely Christmas and see you in the New Year!



Cedar Class

We have had a great start to the year! We spent term 1 learning all about the Jurassic Period, diving into the world of rocks, fossils and of course dinosaurs! Term 2 took us on a journey through time, learning about 'People that Help Us' and how the emergency services have changed and developed over time! Learning through immersive role play was a great success during this topic!

Since half term, the class have all demonstrated a real love for water, showing such enthusiasm and progress during their swimming, hydrotherapy and jacuzzi sessions! We have shared so many successes as a class and we look forward to celebrating many more!



Hazel Class

In September all children were delighted to take part in weekly swimming lessons. This gave all a boost in confidence, for some to achieve independent aided swimming! Our topic, 'Then and Now' transported us all back to the Jurassic period and kept us busy exploring, designing, and creating dinosaur habitats as a class. Children worked as palaeontologists, studying and exploring fossils and rocks. We all agreed it is a very interesting but tough job, especially when it was our turn to match bones to animals. All this exploring helped children create some wonderful descriptive sentences. We left this topic behind with designing and creating slider mechanisms in DT using the dinosaur habitat as the base. In maths children further developed great routine and knowledge of working with numbers, some becoming quite the experts! In topic we talked a lot about fire fighters and investigated what they wear, what equipment they use and what their job is like. 'Superheroes' was the way we described them. As we moved into the winter period our focus turned to a lovely Christmas story, 'Cat in the Manger', which became the Christmas performance too. Children learnt to make diary entries while boosting their knowledge with interesting facts about farm animals.



Ash

Ash class have had a very busy and exciting term. Pupils have really enjoyed this term's topic and have learned lots about fossils and who Mary Anning was in topic lessons. Pupils have developed their partner working skills and worked on art projects and film collaborations over the term. Pupils have particularly enjoyed taking part in PE lessons as a Key Stage and learning how to play hockey and basketball with a sports coach. It has been wonderful to see their skills develop each week and all pupils taking part in matches. Another highlight for all pupils has been cooking lessons. Pupils have explored a wide range of new and healthy foods, designed and made sandwiches and even had a go at making a BLT which was very popular in the end.

Well done Ash class, you have worked so hard together and it is lovely to see so many friendships in class and hear your lovely, independent conversations with each other throughout the day!



Willow

Willow class have enjoyed two terms of learning about mythical creatures and Brazil. They have explored creating their own dragon stick puppets in art, poetry and diary entries in English and more recently looking at the history of Carnivals. Willow class loved learning about electrical circuits in science and enjoyed the practical element of making their own circuits with bulbs, buzzers, motors and switches. The pupils have enjoyed writing about themselves in English and developing their money life skills in Maths. They worked together as a team to plan, organise and execute the Children in Need Day for the whole school. They put their baking skills to the test and their creativity into action as they designed and made their own wacky hats.

Willow class have recently enjoyed their computing lessons where they explored the art of stop motion and showed excellent independent skills. They have loved their swimming lessons since the October half term, showcasing many skills not just in swimming but in their independent dressing, following instructions and perseverance.

Willow class excelled in making their own floats out of recycled boxes ready for their Carnival Christmas performance and worked hard in preparing by learning lyrics, Makaton signing and dances.

Overall, Willow class have settled in well this academic year and it is wonderful to see so many friendships within the classroom.



Rowan

Rowan class have had a great start to the year! We have enjoyed learning about 'Mythical Creatures' and have been focusing on the 'Mapinguari', a mythical creature from Brazil. In English, we have been writing our own stories based on mythical creatures and learning how to write a recount. In history we have been learning all about Brazilian Carnivals and in Geography we have learnt about the main physical features of Brazil. The pupils have especially enjoying making circuits in science and playing Tennis in PE!



Pine

Pine Class have really enjoyed learning all about Brazil and mythical creatures this term. They went on a virtual trip to the Amazon Rainforest, discovered the story of the mythical creature 'Mapinguari' and learnt about the history of carnivals in Brazil. According to the pupils, the highlights have been going to the Amazon, 'all of Maths' but specially making potions, making stop animation films and making carnival floats. It has been very busy but lots of fun, and the pupils have all worked extremely hard.



Senior School

Wow, what a busy two terms we have had in Senior School! We have been focusing on our reading and the pupils have made wonderful progress. In Maths, we have been continuing to work on our place value knowledge, and more recently with money. Please do keep giving the pupils opportunities to use money in real life contexts outside of the school environment as this helps to build their independence. Our new accreditation started this year, and pupils in Holly Class have begun work on their qualifications. We have begun Hospitality and Catering, Performing Arts and IT User Skills. Pupils in Chestnut have been learning how to play the ukelele, which they have been enjoying, as well as our road safety walks, weekly atmospheric sessions, daily exercise and our Maths, English and Phonics sessions. We all enjoyed an enrichment visit to the Oxford Playhouse to see Jack and the Beanstalk and took away what we saw to help us with our performance of Aladdin and cannot wait to perform it to an audience! All the staff in Senior School wish you all a wonderful Christmas and very Happy New Year!



Student Centre

The Student Centre have had another busy term with our Enterprise projects. We have had very successful coffee mornings, with lots of people coming to buy coffee and cake! Our hanging basket Enterprise project was also very successful, with the Year 12 Students running the project. Our A.T.E project, where we prepare lunch for staff, continues to do well. We continue to work hard on our Functional Skills English and Maths skills. We have had different Employer Encounters including Helen who is a paramedic coming in to talk to us. We also joined a virtual meeting around Employment opportunities in British Dressage.





Message from Wayne Tica, Chair of Governors

This term the governors have been out and about in the school quite a bit. As well as class visits and learning walks with staff, many of us helped out at the recent (very successful) Christmas fete, manning stalls, and mucking in where instructed! It really was a wonderful event. This week the governors had the pleasure of attending the Student Centre coffee morning, then sticking around and joining several of the classes for their delicious Christmas dinner – which was fantastic! The same couldn't be said for some of the Christmas cracker jokes though!

On behalf of the Governors I'd like to wish all students, staff, and parents a very Merry Christmas - and we look forward to 2024!

A reminder that it is INSET day on Monday 8th January 2024 and school is closed to pupils. Pupils return on Tuesday 9th January 2024

It just leaves me to thank you all for your continued support of the school and to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

With very best wishes

Stephanie Coneboy
Headteacher



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