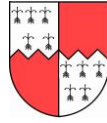


PROPELLER ACADEMY TRUST  
Fitzwaryn

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

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27<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Here we are at the end of a very busy Spring Term! As ever, the pupils have all been working hard but also having some fun at school while they learn. World Book Day and Comic Relief were very busy days as you can read below.

It was lovely to see so many of you at Parents Evening, the Careers fair and also at Bingo last week!

Bingo raised **£1306** which is a record amount – so thank you for your donations, for buying and selling raffle tickets and to those of you who came to play Bingo on the night.

Staffing News - This week we of course are saying goodbye to Mr Slatter who leaves us for pastures new – once again I would like to thank him for everything that he has done for the school over a number of years – he will be greatly missed. We hope that he takes lovely memories with him of his time at Fitzwaryn. We wish him and his family well for the future and hope that he will keep in touch with us all at Fitzwaryn via the wider Special School networks within Oxfordshire.

Miss Jane also leaves us to take up a tutoring role. Miss Jane has also made a huge difference to the pupils and their families, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to her on behalf of everyone at Fitzwaryn. Miss Jane goes with very best wishes from us for her future.

Please see below, some of the lovely things that the pupils and staff have been up to since we came back to school in January – every day is a very busy day at Fitzwaryn!

### Maple Class

We have had a really busy Term 3 and term 4 in Maple class. Our topic has been 'habitats big and small' and there has been a lot of exploration of tiny habitats for minibeasts as well as bigger habitats for animals. We have really enjoyed going on insect hunts and building habitats for different creatures to live in. Exploring the sensory garden has definitely been a favourite this term!



### **Beech Class**

This term has flown by in Beech Class! In Term 3, we had our first swimming sessions, which was a highlight of the week for most of our pupils. There was a lot of floating, splashing and rescuing ducks. This term we've been looking at 'habitats big and small' which has taken us around the United Kingdom. We've looked at different geographical features, and animals that live in those habitats. We've been on bug hunts and made our own habitats. With the weather getting a bit warmer now we have also enjoyed some outdoor learning, with a particular favourite being the jelly tuff tray! This term also brought World Book Day where the teachers in KS1 dressed up as characters from Superworm and acted it out, which the children found hilarious! We got very creative and made characters from The Very Hungry Caterpillar, followed by a hunt around school to find other book characters created by other classes.

Everyone has worked so hard this term and made some great progress.



### **Cedar Class**

Cedar class has enjoyed very busy Terms 3 and 4! We had lots of fun exploring Twisted Fairytales in English, including the story of The Three Horrid Pigs and the Big Friendly Wolf. Throughout the topic, the children explored lots of different building materials and even took part in a construction morning, building various houses and structures including a house for a Polar Bear out of marshmallows and sticks!

We have taken time during Cookery and Personal Social and Independence to explore all things healthy. The children have tried a number of different fruits and vegetables, and as a class this led us to create our new routine of having fruit only during our morning snack! The children have also thought carefully about how to keep their teeth clean and created fantastic reminder posters.

Geography this term has taken us on a wonderful journey looking at a variety of maps and their features! The children had a brilliant time using the map of our school to find the missing treasure!

A particular highlight for Cedar Class has been our wonderful World Book Day celebration. All of the children took part in exploring different authors and genres and we finished the day hunting for different characters and puzzle letters across the school.



### Hazel Class

Spring term in Hazel class was all about growth. Children have become more mature, grown taller, and shown greater independence in class.

The topic, Twisted Fairy Tales gave us lots of fun and the opportunity to read and sequence the story of Tangled using a story map. Children also enjoyed getting involved in the Winter sensory story, transporting them to a place where the temperature is icy cold, everything is covered in snow, and hats, scarves and gloves are worn to keep people warm. In science we took advantage of the ever so shy sun to explore our own shadows in the garden and the playground. Children have tasted and enjoyed lots of different fruits and vegetables and chose their favourites to create their personal healthy snack plates.

After half term all children were excited to get back into the water for their weekly swimming lessons. It is always a joy to see children have a boost in confidence when in water, and some to achieve independent aided swimming!



### Ash Class

Ash class have had a very busy and exciting term. Pupils have really enjoyed this term's topic and have learned lots about World War 1 including cooking wartime recipes. Through the hands-on cooking activities using rations, pupils gained a glimpse into the past and were able to appreciate the foods that they have access to in their everyday lives. Over a series of art lessons, pupils used different media to create shadow and tone, learned new vocabulary and studied the artwork of Vincent Van Gogh which they all really enjoyed. Science lessons this term have been filled with experiments covering light, sound, and forces. Pupils explored shadow size variations using torches in a darkened room, created shadow puppet shows, designed paper aeroplanes and measured paper clip effects and investigated the concepts of contact and non-contact forces present in daily life.

Great job, Ash class! Your strong communication skills, collaborative spirit, and support towards one another continue to be evident throughout each school day. Keep up the great work!



### **Willow Class**

Willow class have enjoyed two terms of learning about journeys and preparing for their upcoming Shakespeare play, *The Tempest*. They have enjoyed learning about different modes of transport and using their problem-solving skills to work out which vehicles would be best to reach different destinations. Willow class have excelled in their Talk For Writing English lessons by exploring the book 'The Lost Thing' by Shaun Tan. They were able to use their knowledge of narrative writing conventions to change and write their own stories based on the book. In maths, they have worked hard to learn how to read an analogue clock, use a ruler and broaden their skills in addition and subtraction. The class have also enjoyed learning key life skills to develop their independence by managing their clothes, which has including learning how to read labels, sorting, folding and hanging clothes up. More recently, Willow class came together as a team and demonstrated excellent leadership skills when planning and executing the Comic Relief charity fundraising day for the whole school. Through Terms 3 and 4, Willow class have impressed the adults with their incredible displays of friendship and positive outlook every day.



### **Pine Class**

This term Pine Class have had a very busy and fun time doing activities based around our 'Tempest' theme. The pupils have done lots of fantastic writing including creating their own version of 'The Lost Thing' by Shaun Tan. They have planned how to reach different destinations in the UK and across the world including using timetables to find out how long the journeys take. When asked what their favourite activities were this term, the pupils said: 'I liked learning about vehicles and making cars.' 'I have enjoyed Maths, doing subtraction.' 'I liked writing, all about the weekend.' 'Making cars' and 'swimming'.



### **Rowan Class**

We've had another busy term in Rowan Class and have enjoyed learning about 'The Tempest'. In English, we have learnt the story of 'The Tempest' and have been writing our own stories based on Shaun Tan's 'The Lost Thing'. In Maths we have been working on our problem solving and have enjoyed learning about fractions and measuring length. In History, we have learnt all about vehicles from the past and in Geography we have been learning how to read maps and reading timetables. We have also been practising hard for our performance of 'The Tempest' and have been busy making props, sets and preparing costumes.



### Senior School – Chestnut and Holly Classes

It's been a very busy term in Senior School and Chestnut and Holly Classes have been working hard starting their accreditation in Computing, Catering and Hospitality and Performing Arts. They have all been learning the Ukulele and Holly class have started cooking up some delicious treats in the Senior School kitchen.

This term we have had weekly swimming lessons and we were so proud of how well the pupils challenged themselves each week. It was the highlight of our week and we had so much fun. We look forward to resuming lessons in Term 6.

Our topics this term have been World War 2 and War Horse and the pupils have worked very hard to learn about poetry and informal letters in their English lessons. In Maths, they have been working on multiplication, fractions and money. Holly Class have been practising their Road Safety on a Monday afternoon, while Chestnut Class have been developing their cleaning skills.

Outside of lessons there have been lots of other fun activities we have taken part in: Choir, FAAAZE club, Beatbox, Horticulture litter picking, Employer encounters, ibricks building, World Book Day and Comic Relief to mention just a few... We're looking forward to all that the Summer term has to offer.



## Student Centre

The Student Centre has been very busy and working hard again this term. As part of our Enterprise, we continue to run our very popular Coffee Mornings. It is lovely to welcome parents and friends to these events. Our Amazing Take Away Enterprise (A.T.E) staff lunches continue to develop with more meals and options available. We have two students who are doing incredibly well at their supported internship placements, and it has been a really positive experience for all involved. Our year 14 students are enjoying their work experience placements and are demonstrating how they can use their Skills Builder skills in real life work settings. We continue to work hard on our Open Awards accreditation. Our enrichment activities this term have included the Consumer Challenge Quiz, in which some of our students competed in a Quiz against 9 other Special Schools from Oxfordshire and came second which was an amazing achievement - we were very proud of them!

Another exciting opportunity for some of our students is that they have been offered work experience placements at the SEND live event happening in April. In preparation for this, some of our students have been to the Kassam Stadium to learn about what their jobs entail on the day!



## World Book Day – a message from Miss Murphy, English lead

Fitzwaryn had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day! Each class spent the morning bringing a book character to life, gearing up for an exciting whole-school character hunt in the afternoon. Pupils explored the school, searching for characters and hidden golden envelopes which contained letters to uncover a secret word. The creativity showcased across the school was truly impressive and at the end of the day, we gathered all the characters together for a grand display.



### Comic Relief – a message from Willow Class

We all had a delightful day getting silly and raising money through fun activities. Classes had a blast with karaoke using inflatable microphones and guitars. Willow and Ash classes even engaged in an epic rap battle, showcasing raps they created during a lively lesson. The afternoon was full of joy as pupils (and staff!) competed in The Silly Olympics, demonstrating their flexibility in the silly limbo, speed in the rug race, and dance moves in the silly dancing contest. They also enjoyed making funny faces and wearing silly props in the Red Nose Day photo booth. A great day and the best bit was that we raised an amazing **£147.08** for a brilliant cause! Thank you for your generosity.



### Eco Council

The Eco Council decided that one of the areas they wanted to concentrate on this year was litter picking. Over the last two weeks we have gone around the school grounds collecting rubbish. They all enjoyed using the litter pickers.



Don't forget, Friends of Fitzwaryn are organising a **Family Fun Day** on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May** (10.30am – 1.30pm) – I hope that you all have it in your diary! Any offers of support will be greatly appreciated!

It just leaves me to wish everyone a wonderful spring break and I look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April** with, I hope, warmer and sunnier days!

With very best wishes

Stephanie Coneboy  
Headteacher



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