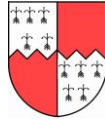


PROPELLER ACADEMY TRUST
Fitzwaryn

'Through learning to learn, pupils will access society'

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Chair of Governors:
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July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of term, I am delighted to showcase some of the wonderful work that has been happening in the school this year! Below you will find a round-up of the classes and you will read how busy they have been!

As always, at this time of the year we say goodbye and thank you to some members of staff who are leaving us for pastures new!

Gill Tica is taking up a PGCE course next year with the aim of becoming a teacher. Isobel Coneboy is also going off to study for a degree to train to be a teacher – I am delighted that our staff have been inspired to go into the profession! We wish them both well.

Hannah Midgeley is moving away from the area and will not be returning after her maternity leave finishes – we wish her and her family well.

Kerry Meaney and Eve Bonere are both going on maternity leave with babies due later in the summer.

Tiffeny Aresti is leaving for a new role in a different sector.

Mike Charlton, our site manager is leaving us due to ill health – we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Mike for all of the work he has done for us over a number of years.

In other staffing news, Naomi Rudman is getting married – we wish her all the very best! She will return in September as Mrs Molyneux.

Last week we were delighted to welcome Kirsty Taylor back to work after her maternity leave; she will be teaching in Holly Class alongside Mrs Pritchard from September.

I am delighted to say that we have some new Teaching Assistants joining us in September and I will be able to let you know who they are in due course. We are still interviewing this week, so will be able to confirm staffing for classes early in September before the pupils return once all the recruitment has been finalised.

As always, I cannot pick my own highlights of the term as there have been so many, I will leave it up to the class teachers to write about the exciting things that have been happening in their classrooms! There has been so much going on and it is such a pleasure to continue to report on such positive experiences.

Maple Class

We have had a wonderful summer term in Maple Class. We have tried some new things including a daily sensory circuit which has helped everyone be ready for their learning. Our topic has been Transport High and Low and we have learnt about old and new types of transport, created 3D models of hot air balloons using papier mâché and explored stop and go traffic light games. At the end of term, we had an off-timetable day where we took a trip around the school, pretended to take a rocket to space, went to the beach and then explored transport play in the afternoon. It was a great day!



Beech Class

We have had a very busy term in Beech class with lots of exciting events and experiences. We became scientists during science week, raced to the finish line during sports day, and travelled to the beach by rocket, train and boat during our topic experience day. We were also lucky enough to have another session with Music for Autism which gave us an opportunity to showcase our dancing and musical talents.

We have continued to enjoy PE, develop our knowledge of plants in horticulture and science, and get creative and expressive in art. Pupils have enjoyed this term's topic on transport which has involved dressing up as Amelia Earhart, making hot air balloons out of papier mâché and mod rock, and using traffic lights to control different road vehicles.

Everyone has worked so hard this term!



Cedar Class

We have had a great end to the year in Cedar Class! Terms 5 and 6 have been a learning explosion of colour, countries and culture! We began with our China topic; exploring farming, Chinese food and we even made our very own class dragon! Alongside this, in Personal Social and Independence, we came together as a Key Stage to develop our Speaking and Listening skills in a weekly Monday morning assembly! It has been great fun seeing all of the photos, toys and other precious things that the children wanted to share with their peers.

As the sun finally made a brief appearance, we spent time creating a wonderful water wall in our class garden, which they have all thoroughly enjoyed exploring!

During term 6 we turned our attention to the Olympic games! As a class we have spent time learning about the origins of the event and how it has developed and evolved our time. A particular highlight for the class, was a surprise visit from Mrs. Coneboy, who presented the class with an Olympic Torch from the 2012 London Olympics Games, which was carried by a previous Fitzwaryn Pupil; a very inspirational moment for us all!

Sports Day was a super success for Cedar Class! The pupils showed great friendship and support to each other as well as real resilience during some of the activities!

As we look towards the end of the school year, Cedar Class have created an abundance of fantastic memories and experiences that they can proudly take with them as they move towards the next chapter of their Fitzwaryn journey!



Hazel Class

What a great year this has been for Hazel class pupils! We have worked very hard to achieve our best and supported each other throughout the year.

In the summer term, our topic took us all the way to China! Children enjoyed cooking and tasting delicious Chinese food! We saw Chinese terracotta warriors when visiting Buscot Park. I must mention the delight of keeping a close eye on and following the life cycle of butterflies. This was celebrated by an emotional send off in our sensory garden.

Wishing all students and their families a well-deserved and relaxing summer break.



Ash Class

Ash class has had a very busy and exciting summer term. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed this term's topics, learning a lot about Chinese culture and the Olympics. They even ventured out on a trip to Buscot Park! During their cooking lessons, they explored a variety of new ingredients and recipes, trying out Chinese dishes with chopsticks, which they found great fun.

Science lessons have also been a highlight this term, especially when studying different life cycles. Pupils were captivated by the butterfly life cycle, watching as the caterpillars transformed at each stage and recalling facts they had learned. It was a lovely afternoon when Key Stage 2 all came together to release the butterflies into the wild.

Another highlight for Ash this term has been the mini show-and-tell assemblies. Pupils took great joy in sharing an item from home or somewhere they had been, showcasing their speaking and listening skills as they developed over the term.

Great job, Ash class! Your strong communication skills, collaborative spirit, and support for one another have been evident throughout each school day. You have had a wonderful year and should all feel very proud of your achievements.



Willow Class

Willow class have enjoyed the summer term of learning about the seaside. They loved science week as they explored the oceans in a sensory exploration looking at the effects of different types of pollution. They have planned and made healthy picnic food, bringing their culinary creativity to life. In English, they have been captivated by the inspiring story of Grace Darling as well as putting their computing skills into practice by researching past and present famous people who have helped others. They have enjoyed planting different seeds and watching them grow into flowering plants. They have been developing their independent skills to look after and nurture their plants. Willow class have continued to learn about looking after their personal care and hygiene when they have learnt which products and items we need.

Overall, Willow class have had a happy summer term, singing sea shanties, making beach scene slider mechanism cards and exploring the seaside in many sensory adventures.



Rowan Class

Rowan class have had a fun-filled summer term! In English, we have focussed on true stories and have had a go at writing our own autobiographies – we learned lots about each other during the process! In topic, we have been learning about plastic pollution and the impact it has on wildlife and we created posters to raise awareness of the dangers of plastic pollution.

Furthermore, some pupils have had the opportunity to head out into the community. They put all the skills they have learned in school to the test when they purchased their own drinks using coins and sat among friends to enjoy their beverages. The pupils assured us that they had the most wonderful time!



Pine Class

Pupils in Pine Class have had a fantastic final term for this academic year. Our theme has been the Seaside and so much has been covered in this topic. We have learnt about different physical and man-made features of the seaside, looked at how seaside holidays have changed since the Victorian times and became experts on the true story of 'Grace Darling'. In our science topic, pupils have investigated and researched how pollution and climate change impacts seas and oceans across the world and thought about how to help the animals that rely on the sea to survive. Tennis sessions with Andy have been a favourite activity of each week, as has cooking where pupils have learnt to make different healthy recipes for picnics.



Senior School (Chestnut and Holly Classes)

It's been a very busy term in Senior School and Chestnut and Holly Class have been working hard completing accreditation work, doing work experience and going on various trips and visits. Our topic this term has been Harry Potter, and we have all loved reading 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' every day in class. In Maths, we have been working on time, mass and capacity this term. Holly Class have been practising their Road Safety in unfamiliar roads in PSI, while Chestnut Class have been developing their gardening skills and have transformed our Senior School Garden, planting sunflowers, herbs, beans and peas.

Outside of lessons there have been lots of other fun activities we have taken part in: a Holly class trip to Mollie's diner to say goodbye to our Year 11 students, Sports Day, a choir trip to sing at a concert in Kennington, and weekly café visits for some students in Chestnut class to develop their

communication skills, to name but a few... This term we have also resumed our weekly swimming lessons and it has been fantastic to see the progress both classes have made this year. We are very proud of the students' work this year- well done Holly and Chestnut class.



Student Centre

Once again, we have had a very busy term in the Student Centre. The students have continued to work very hard! We have had 2 very successful coffee mornings, with lots of people coming to enjoy the tea, coffee and cakes we have made. The students have shown that they can do the different jobs that need doing during these coffee mornings. Some of our students have completed a bike-ability course. We have been fortunate that we could offer students sailing sessions at Farmoor Reservoir, which they have really enjoyed and have all grown in confidence when out on the water. The year 13s have completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition, where they spent 5 days and 4 nights on a canal boat. They all wowed us with how they embraced the whole experience and worked hard as a team for the week.



We have a number of pupils who are leaving us this year to start the next chapter of their lives! We of course wish them all the very best and hope that they take away some amazing memories of Fitzwaryn. We do hope that they keep in touch with us and let us know how they are getting on!

One of the pupils has written the following as he leaves us:

I would like to start off by saying I have had 5 funny and great years at Fitzwaryn school, it has been unforgettable. It is never goodbye I would like to come back and visit one day. My first thankyou goes to Mrs Gordon and Mrs Pritchard for teaching me fun and exciting lessons and arranging fun trips and experiences. My second thank you is to the TAs, thankyou for all your hard work this year, thankfully the caffeine kept you going! My third thankyou goes to Mrs Gardiner for all your help and guidance and my final thank you goes to Mrs Coneboy for giving me the opportunity to experience a happy school life. Thank you and goodbyes are good lucks!

Message from Wayne Tica, chair of governors:

Here we are again at the end of another jam-packed year at Fitzwaryn. The last ten-and-a-bit months have certainly flown by. But in that time, I feel privileged to have witnessed a huge amount of positive activity within the school.

Most recently the Governors and I were invited to attend a Fitzwaryn Leavers event in Wantage. This show-cased all of the amazing achievements, certificates, and accreditations earned by the students over the course of the year (or more). This ranged from academic achievements in English and Maths, Pathway accreditations, work experience, and both Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh awards. The dedication and determination of our students is nothing short of breath-taking...and so was the quality of dancing and karaoke demonstrated during the disco!! We must also recognise the support the students receive from parents, staff, volunteers, and willing sponsor local businesses to make all this happen. Thank you!

Throughout the year, the Friends of Fitzwaryn organise a number of fundraising events – which are always very well supported and attended. The events are not easy to plan, coordinate, setup/pack away and deliver. But there's always such incredible support from staff, governors, and parents to make these events such a success. I'd like to say thank you to everyone that contributes and attends. The funds raised from these events are extremely important and beneficial for the school and students.

We're looking forward to seeing what the next school year brings. Have a great summer.

It just leaves me to wish everyone a very happy summer holiday and let's hope the sun shines!

Term Dates for next year can be found on the website:

<https://www.fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1736&type=pdf>

Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September are both INSET days, so the school is closed to pupils. We look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school on **Wednesday 4th September**

Stephanie Coneboy
Headteacher



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