

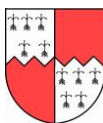
PROPELLER ACADEMY TRUST
Fitzwaryn

'Through learning to learn, pupils will access society'

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

Chair of Governors:
Mr. W Tica

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



Denchworth Road
Wantage
Oxon
OX12 9ET

VAT 175 3789 64

December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As we draw near to the end of an extremely busy term, it is time to look back and reflect on the pupils' achievements during the Autumn Term as there have been so many!

I am sure you would like to join me in thanking all of the staff that make Fitzwaryn such a wonderful place for the pupils to learn! There are many teams (some working behind the scenes) that make the school run smoothly each day and it would be impossible to do it without every one of them!

Maple Class

Maple class have had a wonderful term 1 and 2 this year. Our new pupils have settled brilliantly and hit the ground running with our topic of All at Sea. We have been learning all about the different sea creatures and where they live with Mrs G in Science. In Term 2 we started cookery lessons, and these have become a firm favourite. We are exploring different fruits and vegetables. Everyone has been confidently handling and tasting different foods!



Beech Class

We've had a great start to the year welcoming and settling in new members of Beech class. Our topic this term has been 'All at Sea' and we have had fun exploring different animals that live under the sea through nursery rhymes and sensory activities. We have also looked at a range of transport methods and how they have changed over time; participating in role play and creating collages. In the run up to Christmas we have been busy using our knowledge of 'That's not my reindeer' to create and take part in a performance. The class enjoyed handling different sensory materials and creating their own reindeer to feature in their show.

It's been a busy term, but one full of great progress and experiences.



Cedar Class

Cedar Class has enjoyed a very busy start to the year! The children thoroughly enjoyed our first topic, All at Sea!

In English, our class story, The Dinosaur that pooped a Pirate, was a fun and exciting way to explore descriptive language as well as learning about the treasures found at sea.

In Maths, the children had the opportunity to learn about money through role play. They took on different roles such as being the customer as well as the shop keeper! This immersive approach gave the children such confidence to calculate the total of items on their shopping list as well as finding change!

In history this term, we have spent time learning all about Admiral Lord Nelson and his famous ship HMS Victory. Alongside this, we investigated how modes of transport have evolved over time and we even had a go at creating our own vehicles with no wheels, two wheels and even four wheels!

Cookery has been a huge success for the class this term; we have spent time exploring lots of different fruits and vegetables and many of the children have confidently tasted many of them as well as smelt, touched and licked them!

A particular highlight for Cedar Class this term has to be our super successful swimming sessions! It has been an absolute pleasure to see the children grow in confidence week by week, exploring the water in different ways and even jumping in the deep end! We cannot wait to see what next term will bring.



Hazel Class

We are all very pleased that the pupils have settled into Hazel Class. As a class teacher it is always a joy to see children care for one another and enjoy each other's company in their learning environment. The children had a great time practising safe bike riding on school grounds and achieving their swimming targets as part of their PE and PSI curriculum. They had fun learning about the African climate, geography and culture. They exceeded all expectations of creativity when they painted their Pop Art style portraits. After half term our focus turned to Egypt and what it was like in ancient times. Children explored different ways of creating pyramids when different materials were used. Finally, children did their best to take part in our KS2 Christmas performance, The Nutcracker with Ash class, which was a huge success! At the end of this long and busy term let's reflect on all the hard work Hazel children have completed and all the success they achieved.



Ash Class

Ash Class has had a very busy and exciting term. The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed this term's topic, discovering new facts about Africa and Egypt during their topic lessons. In English, they have engaged fantastically with sensory stories, exploring *Handa's Surprise* and *The Nutcracker* with great enthusiasm. Throughout the term, pupils have made wonderful progress in developing their turn-taking skills and learning to play alongside new classmates. They have particularly enjoyed participating in PE lessons as a Key Stage, where they learned basketball with the guidance of a sports coach. It has been great to see their ball skills improve each week! Another highlight for all pupils has been cooking lessons. They explored a wide variety of healthy fruits inspired by the story *Handa's Surprise* and even had a go at scooping out the insides of pumpkins grown in the horticulture area. Well done, Ash Class! You have worked so hard together, and it was wonderful to end the year with such a fantastic Christmas performance. You were all stars!



Willow Class

Willow class have continued to enjoy their attention autism sessions this term. We have also explored our senses through our daily sensory sessions, where the hot chocolate and marshmallows have been a top favourite with some pupils. A highlight for the year 7's was their Wednesday swimming lessons, where they have all made great progress in both confidence and ability. Meanwhile the year 8's had the chance to mix with pupils from other classes and explored sensory stories and attended atmospherics. We have also been working on following instructions in English and building independence through our cooking lessons.



Pine Class

It has been a busy Autumn term in Pine Class with lots of activities linked to our theme of 'The Vikings'. Pupils have learnt about why and how Vikings invaded the UK and particularly enjoyed creating Viking villages and longboats. They became experts in the story of 'Thor and his lost hammer' and created their own stories about a lost object. Outside of the Viking topic, some highlights have been swimming where some pupils were able to practise their life-saving skills; football sessions with Mr Bradshaw and practising safety in the community by visiting the library and museum.



Rowan Class

This term, we've been diving into the fascinating world of the Vikings! Through our research, we've explored who the Vikings were, where they came from, and the places they travelled to. Working in groups, we investigated some of their most famous raids, including those at York and Lindisfarne. We also examined Viking trade routes and the goods they exchanged.

Our DT lessons have been a highlight, as we designed and crafted Viking shields, adding intricate details like rune letters and iron bosses. We even created foil sculptures of the famous explorer, Leif Erikson. To bring it all together, we used natural resources to build our very own Viking settlement. It's been an incredible journey into the past!



Senior School - Chestnut Class and Holly Class

It has been an incredibly busy and successful term in Senior School. All of the students have worked so hard and have settled well into their new classes. There have been many highlights of the term and some incredible 'Golden Moments'!

We started the term with some of the students going on a trip to the Kassam Stadium to compete in a bowling competition. There was some great team work on show and some of our students won the competition! We have also had a trip to the Oxford Playhouse to see Sleeping Beauty- a lovely day out and lots of fun singing and dancing along to the songs. We organised Children in Need, where students were in charge of the games and activities for the whole school to complete throughout the day. This is also the first year that Senior School have hosted 'Present Palace'- lots of problem solving and enterprise skills are being developed to bring this big project together.

A new initiative has started where the students have chosen a 'hobby' club to participate in 3 times a week- it has been lovely to see the staff and students enjoying different activities alongside each other. This will continue throughout the year, with new clubs to choose from in January.

Well done to all the students in Chestnut and Holly class- a great start to the year!



Student Centre (Oak Class and Elder Class)

The Student Centre has been buzzing with activity since the start of term, and we're loving every moment!

We've welcomed five new students who have settled in brilliantly, adding to the vibrant atmosphere we cherish. Our work towards accreditation has continued as we complete units in *Developing Skills for the Workplace* and *Getting on with Other People*. A key focus has been communication, with students enjoying the chance to present about themselves and their interests.

Some of us took an exciting trip to IKEA to give the Student Centre a fresh look. It was a fantastic hands-on experience where we learned how to locate items in the warehouse and then helped the Site Manager assemble the furniture back at school.

Some of us also went on an incredible enrichment visit to the Houses of Parliament in London. We caught the train to Paddington, navigated the underground to Westminster, and explored the history of Parliament with a tour of the chambers. The cherry on top? Traveling back in style, first class, thanks to Great Western Railway!

Independence skills remain a key focus, with students preparing daily lunches for their peers. We've also been out in the community each week, shopping at places like the market, Sainsbury's, Tesco, and even Home Bargains. These outings help us practise functional English and Maths skills in real-world settings.

On top of all this, two of our students have started work experience at County Print Finishers in Oxford, and they're thoroughly enjoying the opportunity. Our Coffee Mornings continue to be a success, so thank you to everybody who comes along to support those. It's been a busy, rewarding term so far, and we can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings!



News from the Choir – from Mrs Breen

Fitzwaryn choir sings at the Mayor's Carols:

WOW!! what a fantastic start to the year for our school choir. On Wednesday 4th December the choir sang at the annual Mayor's Carols in Wantage. They were amazing-singing loudly, smiling and generally getting everyone in the Christmas spirit. Some of the students stayed to watch the remainder of the concert and were a credit to the school. Well done to all the students involved for a very successful and fun evening. And well done to all the choir members (some of whom couldn't make it on the night) who have worked so hard this year in rehearsals. After the event, one member of the congregation commented:

"Your choir were amazing! The enthusiasm and pure joy that they radiate is infectious!"

Looking forward to lots more singing and fun in the new year- choir is open to all and we rehearse every Thursday at 12.45pm in the hall.



Off Site Activities – from Mrs Grzybko (Mrs G)

During the Autumn term, the children enjoyed a variety of offsite activities.

A group of pupils from the Lower School attended Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) sessions. With the support of RDA volunteers, they learned to ride ponies while completing communication tasks. Some children also participated in trotting and practising the "rise and fall" technique. It has been wonderful to see the progress they make each week!

Additionally, some pupils attended hydrotherapy sessions on Fridays at Kingfisher School. Each week, they engaged in water-based activities, enjoying increased independence in the pool with the help of floating aids.

Fitzwaryn School is also organising swimming lessons for pupils. Every Wednesday three classes travel to Wantage Leisure Centre to improve their water safety and swimming skills. Impressively, some of our pupils managed to swim 20 pool lengths in a single lesson, which is a fantastic achievement!



Message from Wayne Tica, Chair of Governors

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to wish all of the Fitzwaryn community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

It just leaves me to say a huge thank you to you all for your support for the school this term and hope that you all enjoy the festive season. We look forward to seeing pupils back in school on **Tuesday 7th January 2025.**

Best wishes
Stephanie Coneboy
Headteacher



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