

PROPELLER ACADEMY TRUST
Fitzwaryn

'Through learning to learn, pupils will access society'

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we draw near to the end of a very busy year, it is time to reflect on what the pupils have achieved once again.

Leavers

At this time of the year we say goodbye and good luck to pupils and staff who are leaving us for pastures new.

Our **Year 14s**, some of whom have been with us since they were 3 years old, are off to start their next stage in life.

We are so proud of them and everything that they have achieved.

Some highlights from the Year 14 group include:

Kiera – 'Being taught by amazing teachers'

Tomas – 'I liked going bowling. I liked the D of E Expedition on the houseboat'

Gavin – 'I have enjoyed KA's Sports and going to work experience'

Selina – 'Cooking with my friends, making lunches.'

We also have 2 **Year 11s** who are leaving us to start their college courses, and we wish them both well.

Staff – As you know, **Mrs Gardiner** is leaving us to take up a Headship at St Johns, a local primary school. We all know that she will make a brilliant Headteacher and we wish her all the very best for the future.

Sarah Kilminster has decided to leave her post as HSLW at Fitzwaryn. I think you will all agree with me that Sarah has made an enormous difference to our pupils and their families at the school over the time she has been with us, she works so hard to find solutions for our families and is unwavering in her support of everyone.

Sarah is going to a new post at a performing arts school in Swindon where she will no doubt make a considerable difference to the lives of yet more young people.

Sarah will return to school after the summer break but will be leaving us mid-September. I would like to thank Sarah for all her hard work and wish her well for the future. We will be making arrangements for Sarah's replacement and will communicate the plan in September.

Mr Tam is leaving us to become a teacher in a SEN school in Nottingham – we wish him well.

Mrs Breakspear will be leaving us to further her career in a catering company. We wish them all the very best of luck for the future.

Please take some time to read through what each class has been up to this term!

Maple Class

Maple Class have had a wonderful summer term learning all about life on the Farm. In English the pupils have learnt 2 sensory stories, 'A Day on the Farm' and 'The Little Red Hen'. The pupils have enjoyed dressing up to act out the stories and recall key parts. Everyone has loved joining in. With Mrs G, the pupils have been learning about plants and their features, how to grow plants from seed and take care of them. Our Early Years Garden is looking amazing and in September there will be some vegetables ready for the pupils to harvest! Maple have also been wonderful during cookery lessons all year. This term we explored foods from the farm and have been making different vegetable-based dishes. Everyone is becoming so independent and courageous trying new foods. Well done Maple class on an amazing year!



Beech Class

Beech class has had a very busy term 6 with swimming, sports day, a school trip and transition preparations. Despite it being a slightly different term to what they are used to, with changes in routines, they have all coped really well which shows how much progress they have made this year.

In English we have been learning the sensory story version of 'The Little Red Hen' where learners have explored all things farm related and made their own bread. Pupils have developed their understanding of adjectives in relation to colour and texture with lots of hands-on sensory experiences. In Maths we have explored several topics this term including money, positional and directional language and place value. We have had fun role-playing shops, dancing to directional songs (such as the 'Hokey Cokey' and 'Cha Cha Slide') and making progress towards individual number related IEP targets.

In wider curriculum subjects, learners have been exploring our topic of 'on the farm' further. In cooking, learners have been using foods typically produced on farms to create some delicious salads and snacks, a favourite has been vegetable kebabs. This has been a nice link with science where learners have been exploring and planting different vegetables. It has been lovely using lettuce grown in our horticulture area to make salads, experiencing the whole cycle of seed to food consumption first hand.

Art is always a favourite in Beech class and this term has been no different. Learners have been working on developing their knowledge of different materials such as paint, clay and paper to create masks representing animals that can be found on the farm. I am always amazed to see the creations the children produce and the level of creativity and problem solving that every child shows.

We have had another really fun term in Beech Class, and I am so proud of everyone's individual accomplishments this year.



Cedar Class

Cedar Class have had a wonderful end to the school year! Terms 5 and 6 have been packed with exciting farming experiences as we explored our topic, 'On the Farm'. The children have loved learning about farm animals, crops, and even different types of farming machinery.

Maths and play sessions were brought to life with farm-related songs, helping the children develop vital skills in a fun and engaging way. Our art lessons have been a vibrant mix of feathers, fur, and farmyard creativity, as pupils made masks, collages and paintings using a wide range of tools and materials.

A real highlight this term has been cookery. Cedar Class have thoroughly enjoyed exploring, tasting, and cooking with a variety of fruits and vegetables—while also thinking critically about where they grow and how they reach our plates.

Sports Day was a huge success! The children demonstrated fantastic friendship, support and resilience throughout the events, making it a day to remember.

As we approach the end of the academic year, Cedar Class can look back with pride on all the memories and achievements they've made. They leave this chapter of their Fitzwaryn journey full of confidence, ready for the adventures that lie ahead.



Hazel Class

What a fantastic and eventful year Hazel Class has had! All the children have shown tremendous progress in every area of school life, and I would especially like to highlight how independent and mature they have become.

During the summer term, our topic 'The Amazon' took us deep into the rainforest, where we explored the fascinating lives of tribal communities. In English, our story gently introduced the important topic of deforestation and the challenges it poses for the animals living there, as well as for our planet as a whole.

The end-of-year whole school sports day was another highlight. It proved to be a wonderful challenge that all the children in Hazel Class faced with confidence, determination, and, most importantly, a wonderful sense of fun and teamwork with their friends.



Ash Class

Ash Class have had another fun-filled and busy term, packed with exciting learning and hands-on experiences. This term, pupils explored the theme of the Amazon, taking part in creative activities such as tribal face painting and building huts from clay and wood.

In English, they enjoyed reading '*There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom*' and worked on developing their recall skills. Some pupils even planned and wrote their own fantastic versions of the story!

In Maths, the recent focus was on measurement. Pupils compared, built, ordered, and measured towers, with some learning to use a metre wheel to measure areas around the school grounds – a real highlight for many!

For PE, pupils have thoroughly enjoyed working with our sports coach throughout the year. This term, they learned how to play rounders and it was wonderful to see their teamwork skills really flourish. Everyone also took part in Sports Day – a true highlight – with smiling faces all round as they raced down the track and joined in with a variety of activities.

Over the year, all pupils have worked incredibly hard to develop their communication, independence and turn-taking skills. It has been an absolute joy to watch their progress, see friendships blossom, and celebrate everything they've achieved.

Well done, Ash Class – we are so proud of all your hard work!



Willow Class

Willow Class have had a busy and engaging summer term learning about climate change, with a particular focus on melting glaciers, plastic pollution in the oceans, and deforestation. Pupils have enjoyed exploring sensory poems and stories about the human impact on forests and oceans, and took great delight in helping to 'clean up the plastic' to save the animals.

In Term 6, we have seen pupils embedding their independence skills into daily routines. They have shown excellent transitions between lessons, demonstrating fantastic independence by moving their own chairs between desks and the carpet.

The class have also gained a lot from their cooking lessons with Mrs Little, showing great listening skills and following instructions well. Each morning, they have taken part in a 'Picnic in the Sun' themed sensory workout, enthusiastically exploring all their senses. They demonstrated good understanding of different sounds and even broadened their taste palates!

Swimming in Term 5 was a big hit, pupils loved being in the water, but the trips were also a golden opportunity for pupils to work on their communication skills to say thank you to the adults around them – from school staff to bus drivers and reception staff.

A particular highlight of this term was Sports Day. Pupils enjoyed spending time together as a key stage and taking part in a range of activities – with the water relay being a firm favourite. They practised hard for it in their PE lessons and thoroughly enjoyed the event.



Rowan Class

This term, we've had a fantastic time delving into our exciting topic: *Past, Present and Future*, with a special focus on climate change! In science, we explored how ice melts on different surfaces and discovered the difference between heat-absorbing and heat-reflecting materials. In DT, one of the highlights was learning how air can be used to make things move – the children thoroughly enjoyed designing, testing and evaluating their own pneumatic rescue systems. Our history and geography lessons took us on a journey through time as we investigated the impact of global warming. We looked at how the Earth has changed over time and used this to imagine what it could look like in the future if we don't take care of it. In computing, pupils developed their word processing skills by creating informative mini reports on climate change. They practised formatting text, inserting images, and presenting their ideas clearly and creatively. It's been a busy, engaging term full of hands-on learning, thought-provoking discussions, and growing awareness of our planet's future. Well done to all the children for their enthusiasm and hard work!



Pine Class

It has been a busy and fun summer term in Pine. These are some of the highlights as chosen and written by the Pine Class pupils.

We have enjoyed learning about the glaciers, how long they've been there and how they affect the earth and the animals. The earth is getting hotter.

We liked learning about Greta Thunberg and Licypriya Kangujam; they were young people who cared about the planet. Here is what the pupils thought about their learning:

We have enjoyed 'Would you Rather?' in PSI where we practised our debating skills.

'I like seeing everyone's options and I like people saying you wouldn't want to do it or you want to. My favourite question was 'Would you rather eat a live worm or a dead bug?' – Henry.

We have had a Thursday afternoon tea party practising social skills for when people come to visit our house. 'I liked hearing what everyone is doing last night and it's amazing to see everyone coming together.' - Alfie

'In Maths, when we were doing time, we practised using the clock so we can learn what the time is' Jordan



Senior School - Chestnut Class and Holly Class

It's been a very busy term in Senior School! Chestnut and Holly Classes have been working hard completing accreditation work, doing work experience and some pupils have recently sat Functional Skills exams.

The start of the term saw Holly class go on their residential to Avon Tyrrell activity centre. It was such a successful few days, with so many amazing memories made. Our topic this term has been The Tudors, and we have all loved learning about the Tudor monarchs and what life was like in Tudor times. In PSI, Holly class

have been looking at careers, while Chestnut Class have been developing their gardening skills - researching, buying, planting and maintaining a new set of flowers for our garden.

We have been swimming again in Term 6 and these sessions have been the highlight of our week; developing independence skills and boosting our wellbeing. We have had some very successful Gladiator tournaments in PE, where our students have hosted local schools, showing fantastic communication and team-working skills. All pupils have continued to enjoy our varied enrichment programme which, this term, has included: sewing club, Lego club, PE leaders and 'Walk and Talk.'

We are very proud of the students' work this year - well done Holly and Chestnut classes!



Student Centre

It's been a fantastic term in the Student Centre, full of progress, creativity, and achievement!

Our pupils have continued working hard towards their accreditations, with several students successfully completing their Functional Skills exams - an incredible milestone that reflects their dedication and growth.

Our horticulture projects have been in full bloom, with students taking pride in nurturing plants and learning valuable skills about nature, responsibility, and teamwork. Alongside this, our enterprise projects have gone from strength to strength! Pupils worked collaboratively to create beautiful and thoughtful products for Father's Day and leavers' gifts, developing important business, communication, and practical skills in the process.

A special highlight this term has been the Year 14 work experience programme. Our leavers have taken on a range of exciting and meaningful placements, including working in the local library, with a gardening company, in a local café, supporting younger pupils at horse riding sessions, and even assisting a sports coach at a local primary school. These experiences have helped build confidence, independence, and real-world skills, and we are incredibly proud of how well they represented the school in the community.

This term also marks a heartfelt farewell to our wonderful Year 14 leavers. We say goodbye to nine amazing young people who have come so far in their independence, confidence, and personal development. We are so proud of everything they've achieved and know they will go on to do great things.

We're already excited to return in September for an even bigger and better year ahead. Have a fantastic summer!



Off-Site Trips and Visits – From Mrs G

As we wrap up another amazing year at Fitzwaryn, we're celebrating all the brilliant off-site experiences our pupils have enjoyed and what a year it's been!

Each week, three classes travelled to the leisure centre to learn about water safety and improve their swimming skills. We were so proud to see pupils go from taking their first steps into the pool to swimming full lengths, such amazing progress!

Tuesdays and Thursdays were riding days for groups of Lower School pupils. With help from Evelyn and the wonderful RDA volunteers, they built confidence, learned to steer and trot, and tackled every challenge with a smile.

And to end the week, some pupils enjoyed hydrotherapy - splashing, swimming, and exercising in the warm pool with friends. So much joy and independence!



Enrichment – from Mrs GP

Wow – what a brilliant Term 6 it's been for extra-curricular opportunities across the school! We were thrilled to launch our brand-new KS1/KS2 after-school club, which quickly grew in popularity each week. From preparing their own high tea to exploring new tastes and learning practical kitchen skills, our younger pupils flourished with the support of our fantastic teaching assistants.

Our Senior School and Student Centre pupils have benefitted from an exciting new partnership with Wantage Town Football Club and the Berks & Bucks FA. Weekly coaching sessions have helped develop their confidence, teamwork, and sporting skills — a fantastic foundation for what we hope will be a long-running collaboration. We've also been able to provide free staff CPD, developing coaching skills across our team — such a valuable opportunity.

We've continued to grow our Intergenerational Enrichment Programme with The Sanctuary Nursing Home, where students from the Student Centre and Rowan Class have built their communication skills while forming meaningful connections within the local community. Our VE Day celebration was particularly memorable — our pupils showed incredible compassion and empathy while talking to residents about their childhood experiences. Cookery sessions brought plenty of smiles, with residents sneakily taste-testing alongside our pupils! It was especially enriching to see Rowan pupils independently start conversations with such warmth and respect. One pupil said, "I let them win" — a lovely reminder of how children reflect the kindness and gestures they see in adults.

We were also delighted to receive a £250 grant from Wantage Town Council to support our "Paint Wantage Green" project in June. While we didn't quite manage to display our creations in shop windows, our students developed new skills in haberdashery, including recycling old clothes, making pom-poms, and exploring sustainability using repurposed materials. A huge thank you to The Makery in Wantage for their generous support in helping bring our creative ideas to life!

As the term ends, we're excited to launch FitzFusion — our new summer camp experience! Across six full days of themed fun, students will take part in activities that celebrate the season and build new skills. While we might not be heading to the seaside, our Beach Day promises all the excitement of Bognor Regis — complete with ice cream from a traditional van, kindly provided by the amazing Friends of Fitzwaryn. And if that wasn't magical enough, we'll be stepping into the wizarding world with a Harry Potter-themed day — where students will be sorted into houses by the famous Sorting Hat, brew potions, and even learn to play Quidditch!

There's so much more to come under the FitzFusion banner next year. Watch this space for more enriching, imaginative, and fun-filled opportunities for all!



Beech Class - Trip to Farmer Gow's

This term Beech Class went on their first school trip to consolidate learning of their topic 'on the farm'. Pupils had great fun feeding goats, pigs and sheep; collecting eggs and having the chance to hold or stroke chicks. I am so proud of how everyone dealt with the change of routine, being immersed in a different environment full of unfamiliar sensory experiences, and getting close to a range of farm animals. We also had lots of fun climbing on hay bales and crawling through tunnels. Thank you to everyone involved in making this trip possible, we had lots of smiling faces and great learning opportunities.



From Jo Little – Horticulture Lead

In Horticulture Therapy sessions the pupils have been busy planting, watering and now picking and eating the vegetables. We were very pleased with all our new potatoes and raspberries and are now looking forward to the sweetcorn and tomatoes. As well as this, pupils have helped to weed and care for the horticultural area, learning new skills and working hard.

Thank you very much to all the parents, Friends of Fitzwaryn and to Wickes for the donations of gardening tools. The pupils have really enjoyed having a wider range of equipment to use.



From Leanne O'Donnell – Chair of Friends of Fitzwaryn

Friends of Fitzwaryn have had a busy and successful year – a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who supported us by donating, buying raffle tickets, or attending our events. This year we have organised the following events:

- Christmas Fair
- Easter Bingo
- Stall at East Challow Summer Fayre
- Stall at Charlton Centre Summer Fayre
- Rags to Riches collections
- Easy Fundraising
- Christmas and Summer raffles

We're delighted to share that we've raised a fantastic

£2,674.62 !!

With your support, we've been able to fund:

- A Christmas pantomime experience for the pupils
- Class Christmas presents
- Ice creams and lollies for the pupils
- We have also donated £8K towards the upcoming refurbishment of the Sensory Theatre

We also continue to offer **second-hand uniform** - if you need anything over the summer, please get in touch via the school's Facebook page.

Friends of Fitzwaryn have a cause on <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/admin-dashboard/> - this is a very easy way to support us.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer, and once again, **thank you** for your continued support, look out for our exciting events next year!

From Wayne Tica – Chair of Governors

'As we wrap up another school year, I want to say a heartfelt thank you, on behalf of the whole Governing Board, to all our wonderful parents and carers. Your ongoing support, encouragement, and trust mean so much. Working together with you is what helps make our school community so strong.

To our incredible staff — thank you for everything you do. Your care, passion, and tireless commitment shine through in every part of school life. You bring out the best in our students, helping each one grow, learn, and feel proud of who they are. We know how much heart you put into your work, and we're thankful to have such an exceptional team.

Have a wonderful summer break'

It just leaves me to thank you for your continued support of the school and wish you all a very Happy Summer Holiday. See you in September!

Term Dates for 2025 - 2026: <https://www.fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=26>

Pupils return on **Wednesday 3rd September 2025**

With very best wishes

Stephanie Coneboy
Headteacher



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