

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of a very busy term we can reflect on some of the wonderful things that the pupils at Fitzwaryn have been up to!

Thank you to everyone who came to watch the pupils perform for you – a lot of hard work goes into the performances as you would have seen.

Please take a moment to read the reports from the class teachers below:

Maple Class

We've had a great start to the year welcoming new and returning members of Maple class. We are all so proud of how quickly everyone has settled, following routines, and learning the structures and expectations of the school day.

Our topic this term has been 'All About Me' where we have had fun getting to know each other as well as building some really positive relationships between peers and familiar adults. Maple class have been busy getting creative, developing play and social skills, and building on existing prior knowledge of number, storytelling and handwriting.

In the run up to Christmas we have been busy using our knowledge of our sensory story 'The Nativity' to create and take part in a performance. The class have enjoyed handling different sensory materials, engaging in role play, and creating backdrops to feature in their show.

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



Beech Class

Beech Class have had a brilliant Autumn Term. We have made new friends and enjoyed exploring a new classroom. Our topic *All About Me* has had us learning different actions to the nursery rhyme *Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush* and we have focussed on skills like washing our faces, brushing our hair and teeth. Everyone has been very independent. More recently we have also really enjoyed decorating salt dough Christmas decorations in RE.



Cedar Class

In English, our Term 1 class story 'Lost and Found' gave the children wonderful opportunities to recall key characters, retell parts of the story, and sequence events using our Talk for Writing approach.

In Maths, the children learned about money through role play. They took on different roles, both customer and shopkeeper and this immersive experience gave them great confidence in calculating totals and working out change.

In Art, the class spent time learning about the artist Paul Klee. They explored examples of his work, focusing on his use of shape, colour and paint. The children experimented with watercolours, acrylics and powder paints, creating simple shapes in their sketchbooks.

Cookery has been a huge success this term! The children developed their understanding of healthy foods by making sandwiches. They made choices about ingredients, practised skills such as grating and chopping, and grew in confidence when tasting new foods, which was wonderful to see!

A particular highlight this term has been our super successful swimming sessions. It has been a pleasure to watch the children grow in confidence each week, exploring the water in new ways and even jumping into the deep end!

We are all so excited to see how they continue to progress next term!



Hazel Class

For many children, the Autumn Term marked the start of a new key stage in their educational journey, with an increased focus on independence in communication and engagement with learning. 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 fantastic time achieving their swimming targets and learning how to pass the ball to one another in different ways with intention as part of their PE curriculum. Our termly topic provided a wonderful opportunity to explore what different homes look like, and the children exceeded all expectations of creativity when they designed and built furniture from recycled materials to fit into a home. After half term, our focus shifted to the history of bricks. Children explored a variety of materials and had the chance to create a daub-and-wattle-style wall. On Friday mornings, we explored the sensory garden, where the children took part in activities designed to develop their turn-taking and communication skills in a natural, engaging environment.

At the end of this long and busy term, it is wonderful to reflect on all the hard work the Hazel children have completed and the successes they have achieved.



Ash Class

Ash Class have had a busy and exciting term, taking part in lots of activities linked to our topic, 'A Place I Call Home'.

In English, pupils have enjoyed exploring the sensory stories *Lost and Found* and *The Littlest Star*. They have been working hard on their recall and sequencing skills, and our Talk for Writing group had the exciting opportunity to read their stories aloud to an audience. Some pupils have even progressed to using laptops to type up their work, which has been exciting!

In Maths, pupils have been building their confidence in place value and addition. They have also begun learning how to use calculators and are already applying their new skills to check and mark their own work.

Beyond English and Maths, pupils have been developing their cooking skills, making healthy sandwiches and confidently choosing their own ingredients. They demonstrated fantastic teamwork each week when tidying up the kitchen. In PSI sessions, pupils have taken part in a variety of turn-taking activities and games, helping them build friendships and strengthen their social skills. Another favourite this term has been computing, where pupils have loved exploring Bee-Bots and programming them to move around maps to find different items.

A real highlight has been swimming. Every pupil has made fantastic progress—not only in their water skills but also in their confidence transitioning to and from the pool.

Well done, Ash Class! Your hard work, enthusiasm, and teamwork have been wonderful to see. Keep up the fantastic effort!



Willow Class

Willow Class has had an exciting and enriching start to the school year! Over Terms 1 and 2, pupils have fully immersed themselves in our Asian Adventure topic, exploring culture, stories, art, and music from across Asia.

Each morning in Term 1, during Sensology, pupils enjoyed a “trip to Japan,” engaging their senses and sparking curiosity. In English, we listened to captivating Asian stories, including the tale of Rumaysa, which inspired a range of creative activities. Pupils made magical necklaces, built towers, and crafted owls to help recall and retell the story in fun, hands-on ways.

Our learning journey continued with *The Dragon Who Lost His Fire*, which became the theme for our Christmas play. Pupils have loved preparing for the performance—learning ribbon dances, making bao buns (with a twist using socks and stuffing!), and practising new Makaton signs to accompany our festive songs and story words. These activities have supported communication, creativity, and confidence.

In Pre-Maths, pupils have been developing their understanding of types and size, sorting objects, and strengthening counting skills through listening to stories and exciting items. They have truly been superstars in these sessions! Beyond the classroom, pupils enjoyed swimming at the local leisure centre and had the exciting new opportunity to take part in PE lessons with our external coach, Martin. Cooking sessions have continued to build independence, and pupils have also explored learning more about themselves and their families.

We’ve seen fantastic engagement during Attention Autism sessions, including Bucket Time and Stage 2 activities. Some pupils have even started the Curiosity Programme, which is the step before Bucket Time showing growing communication skills.

Thank you for your continued support. We are so proud of all the progress and joy in Willow Class this term!



Pine Class

It has been a busy Autumn term in Pine Class with lots of activities linked to our theme of 'Asian Adventures'. Pupils have explored different drawing and painting techniques to recreate some pictures of Asian landscapes. They have enjoyed learning to make some different Asian recipes in cooking and tasting some of the vegetables and fruit used in these dishes.

In PE, we have been developing skills in ribbon dancing which we enjoyed sharing in the Christmas production.



Rowan Class

Rowan class have had a fun-filled Autumn term! In the first part of the term, pupils enjoyed learning about the tale of Rumaysa and retold our own version. Pupils also had great fun in Geography, where we learned about different Asian countries and planned out Rumaya's journey.

In the second part of the term, pupils spent time out in the community working on our road safety and had a whole class trip to choose and collect our school Christmas tree! Our highlight has been practising and preparing for our Christmas production, which pupils put so much hard work into!



Chestnut Class and Holly Class – written by Abbie Mae and Destiny

So far this year we have done a 'Hello Yellow' day. We planned everything for the other classes to do. We decorated cakes in yellow icing and Haribo's.

We have done a hockey match, teachers / parents/carers vs Chestnut and Holly. We were in groups of four different colours red, blue, green and non-bibs we had to beat the teachers/ parents ... We lost!

Chestnut class went to Mollie's Diner they did a tour of the hotel, and they were split into two groups. Some of them were making milkshakes and the other group were making the pancakes. They got to eat and drink what they made. On Friday afternoon they do road safety.

Holly have done Forest School - they went to Betjeman Park in Wantage to look around the park, they climbed trees and they also planted some trees in the garden.

Holly and Chestnut went to the Playhouse in Oxford to watch Dick Whittington. We got a hired bus then we watched it then we came home and had lunch.



Student Centre

It has been such a great start to the year for Elder and Oak classes. We have been impressed with the students' attitude and effort in lots of different areas.

The Year 12 students have been completing weekly work experience at Blenheim Palace which has been such a treat. They have been harvesting seeds, planting bulbs, making apple juice and feeding the Blenheim Palace pigs! Each week there has been a new challenge, and the students have been working well as a team and making great progress with their confidence and communication skills as the weeks have gone on.

Wednesdays have seen the start of enrichment clubs- these have been a highlight of the week for everyone (staff included). The clubs have been supporting the students to learn vocational skills in an area that is of interest to them. There have been many highlights- the 'Animal Care' club's trip to a local farm shop to feed the animals, face and nail art in 'Hair and Beauty' club and fantastic communication in 'Twinkleboost' sessions, to name but a few...

There has been a strong focus on wellbeing this term and students have had PE sessions with Martin twice a week and some students have restarted swimming lessons at the leisure centre every Wednesday. Students have been encouraged to develop their self-regulation skills with a daily focus on interoception activities.

Some students have been working as 'buddies' in other parts of the school to support younger students with similar learning or physical needs to them; it has been a joy to see their leadership skills develop.

Thank you to all friends and family members who have attended our coffee mornings- these have been really successful, and the students have enjoyed creating different items to sell on the Enterprise stall.

Well done to Oak and Elder students for all their efforts this term and we are looking forward to another busy term ahead.

Report from Sarah GP regarding enrichment opportunities:

Wantage Partnership PE Sports – Term 1

We are delighted to have taken part in Boccia and Goalball this term. Nine students from Maple, Cedar, Hazel and Ash represented the school in Boccia, with our team placing 4th, 9th and 13th. Six students from Holly and Ash took part in Goalball, achieving fantastic 2nd and 4th place finishes.

All students took part with enthusiasm, demonstrated excellent teamwork, and supported one another throughout the events.



October Half Term 'FitzFusion' Camp

We ran two successful holiday camps during the October half term. Students had the opportunity to bake Halloween biscuits and brownies, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. They also got creative making pumpkin slime and carving pumpkins together. It was a wonderful two days filled with fun, teamwork, and seasonal activities.

Afterschool Clubs

Thank you for your patience while we have been developing and improving our afterschool clubs. The feedback from the parent forum has been extremely helpful. This term, students have enjoyed cooking, playing indoor and outdoor games, building with Lego, Christmas crafting, and making new friends. Students also take part in making their own tea and helping to clear up, building independence and responsibility.

The new dates and club options for Term 3 have now been sent out, and spaces will be confirmed as soon as possible.



Level 1 Forestry in the Community

Pupils from Holly Class are piloting a practical qualification that gives learners the opportunity to explore forestry as a potential career choice. Aimed at 14–16-year-olds, the qualification consists of four units designed to build confidence, provide a sense of achievement, and enhance self-esteem while caring for a woodland area.

The programme helps learners take their first steps towards gaining the knowledge and skills needed for a career in forestry or arboriculture. Students are developing their understanding of woodland plants and animals, as well as learning practical skills essential for effective woodland management.



PSI Work in Rowan Class

Over Terms 1 and 2 pupils in Rowan Class have been working towards three key aims as part of their PSI learning. They have been showing knowledge of, and following, at least three community safety rules during supervised outings.

Pupils have also been practising road safety skills, including stopping and looking both ways before crossing the road with minimal adult prompts.

Additionally, they have been learning to use Google Maps to find directions, estimate travel times, and recognise key landmarks, helping to build their independence and confidence when travelling in the community. We even chose this year's Christmas Tree.



Personal Social and Independence in Hazel Class

In Hazel Class, we have been exploring the book 'It Was a Cold Dark Night' by Tim Hopgood. Our focus this term has been on friendships, taking turns, and developing communication skills.

We have created a hedgehog house and made hedgehogs through craft activities and from clay using natural materials from our sensory garden. Our final session will be a *celebration and friendship fire*, where students will enjoy hot chocolate and marshmallows together.



Work Experience in Student Centre

The Student Centre has been busy this term engaging with work experience positions in the community. Students have been supported by Vale & Downland Museum, Waitrose, Wantage Library, Cornerstone in Grove and The Sanctuary Nursing Home. It has been great to see the confidence, enthusiasm and independence the students have been developing.



Intergenerational Enrichment at The Sanctuary Nursing Home

National Video Games Day was a level-up for everyone! Residents from The Sanctuary Nursing Home joined forces with younger gamers for an unforgettable intergenerational gaming experience. From racing tracks to puzzle challenges, laughter and friendly competition filled the room - proving that gaming truly brings generations together!



A message from Friends of Fitzwaryn

The Friends of Fitzwaryn have had a busy time this term!

Christmas Fair – 29th November

Our Christmas Fair was a huge success! Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and Santa even managed to escape from the North Pole for a visit, accompanied by one of his elves. We're delighted to share that we raised a grand total of **£1,555!**

Other Fundraising Activities

Despite the weather, the **Sweet Treat Tombola** at the Wallingford Christmas Market on Sunday 7th December had a great turnout, raising a huge **£354**.

Pupils also created their own festive card designs, raising **£107**.

Rags to Riches contributed **£27.75**, and **Easy Fundraising** has paid **£74.67** so far (to sign up for Easy fundraising please visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

This gives us a **grand total of just over £2,118!**

This is an amazing achievement, but we couldn't have done it without your support. A massive thank you to each and every one of you who contributed and supported us in any way.

What We Have Fundraised for

With your help, we have been able to fund:

- An Air Hockey & Pool Table for the After School Club
- A Panto Trip for Senior School
- Christmas Presents for every class
- A contribution towards upgrading the Sensory Theatre

What We're Working Towards

We are now fundraising for **cooking equipment** and **musical instruments**.

If you have any contacts who may be able to help, please do let us know!

We also have some **second-hand school uniform** available. If you need anything, please get in touch.

Join Us

We meet **once a term** (both in person and online). If you'd like to join or find out more, please email us at:

✉ Friends@fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk

You can also find us on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1376322876816995> (Search for Friends of Fitzwaryn PTFA)

Message from our Speech and Language Therapists

Oxford Health SaLT team would like to invite you to a parent training session on how we work and support children in Oxfordshire. Aims of this session includes:

Re-introduce the SaLT team at Fitzwaryn

Overview of our service model and children's journey through Speech and Language Therapy

What is episodic care?

Opportunity for questions and requests for further parent training opportunities.

We will be running this session on Monday 19th January at 2:15pm - 3pm in Fitzwaryn School. Please email CITSLT@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk if you would like to attend.

Message from the Chair of Governors, Wayne Tica

As we reach the end of term, I would like to thank all staff, pupils, and families for their continued efforts and support. The Governing Body recognises the hard work that goes into maintaining a stable and productive learning environment throughout the term. We remain focused on ensuring the school continues to meet the needs of all its pupils, and we appreciate the collective work that makes this possible. We wish everyone a restful break and look forward to the start of the new term.

And finally

Don't forget – it is INSET day on Monday 5th January so school will be closed to pupils.

Pupils return to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

It just leaves me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and joyous New Year from everyone at Fitzwaryn!

With very best wishes

Stephanie Coneboy

Headteacher