

Dear Parents and Carers

It has once again been an extremely busy term and there has been so much going on both inside and outside the classroom!

Please take some time to read through the wonderful things that have been happening!

Maple Class

This term has flown by in Maple Class. Our topic has been 'construction' which has meant we have been busy building using different materials and learning the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. We have also enjoyed doing some more outdoor learning as the weather is beginning to change. We have explored capacity through sensory and water play, planted seeds which we are excited to watch grow next term, and made some beautiful stained-glass windows in RE. A favourite for Maple Class this term has been cookery. We have been tasting and exploring different sandwich fillings and developing our spreading skills to make our own sandwiches for snack.

I continue to be so proud of everyone in Maple Class and the positive attitude they bring to school and the progress they continue to make. Have a great Spring break and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for another busy term ahead.

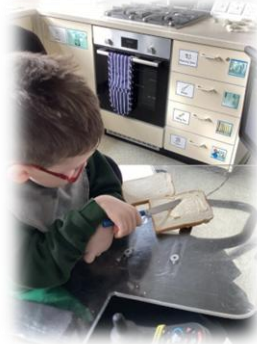


Beech Class

Beech Class have also been busy this term with the topic 'construction'. We have been using different types of blocks, bricks and junk modelling to create different structures, a favourite being the magnetic blocks. As part of our English story of 'The Three Little Pigs', we have been making our own props and character masks to re-tell and role play the story.

A notable moment this term has been swimming. For a lot of learners in Beech Class, this has been their first time swimming with school. Everyone has embraced the change to the timetable and have enjoyed splashing and movement in water. We are very proud of you all.

It has been a short but busy term, and I hope you all have a lovely break.



Cedar Class

Cedar Class have been very busy this term exploring clothes, producing sock puppets and even looking at different body parts!

In English, we have followed and sequenced simple instructions linked to *The Smartest Giant in Town*. Pupils have developed their understanding of instructional language through the repetitive use of our Sensory Story, which provides pupils practical, visual and audible resources to support the text making it much easier for them to sequence, follow and retell.

In D&T, the children took their love for the characters from the story, *The Smartest Giant in Town* and created their very own animal sock puppet. This task created lots of verbal and non-verbal interactions between the pupils which was wonderful to see. In Geography, we took a closer look at the Water Cycle with the help of Wally the Water drop! Pupils explored each stage of the cycle, learning all about what changes occur and when. In PSHE we have looked carefully at Road Safety and what skills are needed to walk close to traffic and how to safely cross a road.

PE has been a huge success this term for Cedar Class, we have spent time developing confidence and control when moving our bodies using some of the larger equipment pieces such as the climbing wall and the ropes. More recently we have had lots of fun exploring salt dough in Art, making our very own footprints which we then went on to paint!

A big highlight for the pupils this term was celebrating World Book Day! We created a scene from our chosen story, *The Lighthouse Keepers lunch* and embarked on building our very own giant lighthouse along with junk model sea gulls and smaller lighthouses made from plant pots. We then spent the afternoon as story detectives, visiting all of the other classes and trying to work out what story their display was from! It was a wonderful celebration of creativity and imagination!

We are so proud of all the children's hard work and enthusiasm this term. Wishing all of Cedar Class and their families a very Happy Easter break — we look forward to welcoming everyone back for the Summer Term!



Hazel Class

Hazel class have had another fun filled term. This term our topic has been head shoulders knees and clothes and our focus text in term 3 was the Smartest Giant in Town. In English we explored a fun filled sensory story, we also created props to include in our story, such as animal masks and crowns.

In maths in term 3 we made tally charts and pictograms, linking them to our topic on the Smartest Giant in Town. In term 4 we looked at the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and are now exploring fractions by cutting playdough into halves and quarters.

Throughout term 3 and 4 we have also been developing our road safety skills, we practiced both on our school field and out in the community. It has been lovely to see some of our class practise the skills that we have learnt in the community

Hazel class had a lovely world book day, we all worked together to make a class display of The Snail and the Whale; we all worked very hard and it looked amazing.

In term 3 Hazel class, as part of PSI, enjoyed Forest school which included exploring the sensory garden for bugs and plants and creating treasure hunts for each other to follow. In term 4 we have started Horticulture and are planting seeds so we can grow our own vegetables and taste them.



Ash Class

Ash class have thoroughly enjoyed the topic head, shoulders, knees and clothes and had lots of fun role playing and trying on different outfits. In English the students developed their instruction writing skills based on the story 'The Smartest Giant in Town' and their story writing abilities based on the story 'I Wish I Had Duck Feet'. In DT the students had the opportunity to create an animal sock puppet based on a character from 'The Smartest Giant in Town'. In Cookery the students explored what healthy ingredients they would like to add to their own pasta salads. In Geography we helped Wally the Water Droplet navigate his way around the water cycle. In PSHE we have been learning how to safely cross a road and to wait for the green man. In Art we have learnt what ingredients are needed to make salt dough so we can make footprints. A big highlight this term has been swimming at Wantage Leisure centre. Ash class had particular fun on World Book Day when we set up a story scene in the classroom from Peace at Last and spent the afternoon being book detectives trying to guess which books the story scenes from other classes were from.

We are so impressed and proud of the children's hard work this term and wish everyone a happy Easter break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for the summer term!



Willow Class

Willow class have enjoyed exploring our theme of 'Lost and Found' through our lessons, particularly in our English sensory stories, Sensology workouts, Attention Autism sessions, pre maths and topic lessons. We explored the story 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers and 'Lost in the Toy Museum' by David Lucas. These stories offered opportunities to learn new vocabulary and their matching signs and developing comprehension and recall of the story elements. Our pre phonics books over term 3 & 4, explored through sensory stories and song stories have brought genuine smiles and laughter every day. Pupils have been working on developing their number sense and sorting skills in maths using engaging counting songs and motivating items.

Willow class have enjoyed getting their bodies moving in their PE lessons and in swimming this term. They have recently been enjoying cooking lessons on Wednesdays and were treated to a special visit from a local police officer to offer them career encounters.

A highlight this term for Willow class was world book day and looking around and finding out the answers to the story book scene scavenger hunt.

Willow class have continued to develop their understanding of the world around them in PSHE and RE lessons as well as developing their independent skills through a variety of different activities and routines.

We look forward to more outdoor opportunities and exploring in our 'Out and About' theme for the summer term.



Rowan Class

Rowan class have had a fun-filled Spring term! In the first part of the term, pupils enjoyed learning about different adverts and we wrote an advert that included rhetorical questions to persuade people to save the polar ice caps. Pupils also had great fun in DT, where we designed and created our very own bird boxes.

In the second part of the term, pupils have learned about Amelia Earheart and we re-created her travels across the Atlantic. In maths, we explored position and direction. Pupils were blindfolded and had to be guided by each other find their 'treasure' - there were lots of laughs all round! Our highlight has to be World Book Day, where pupils worked incredibly hard to transform our classroom into the magical land of Oz from the book the Wizard of Oz. Everybody took part and we were very proud of the results!



Pine Class

Pine Class have had a fun-filled and engaging term exploring the topic *Lost and Found*. In English, pupils have been studying *The Lost Thing*. They have written adverts, learned the story using Talk for Writing, and adapted it to create their own imaginative versions. Pupils also enjoyed learning the text through the sensory story approach and sequencing events using props.

In Maths, learning has been very hands-on as pupils developed their measurement skills. They took part in scavenger hunts, measuring found objects using rulers and cubes.

A real highlight this term has been Design and Technology, where each pupil designed and made their own bird box. They selected their preferred shape, assembled pre-cut wooden pieces, and then painted and decorated their boxes with 3D butterfly stickers before proudly showcasing their work.

Cooking has also been a highlight, with pupils making healthy pasta salads. Each week, they worked collaboratively to create a 'salad bar', choosing their own ingredients, tasting new foods, and discovering new favourites.

Well done, Pine Class—you have worked incredibly hard this term!



Chestnut and Holly Class (Senior School) – written by Destiny and Abbie Mae

In term 4, some of us took part in the dance festival at the New Theatre in Oxford.

We practised in front of the other schools performing that day, then we did our performance in front of lots of people.



We have also taken part in forest school and have been working on our conservation skills. We planted trees and hedges and learned how to use the tools properly. We went out in the community and did some hedge planting with Wild Wantage too at King Alfred's Well.



Every other week we can take part in cross country at Wantage park. We must earn our place on the bus by doing a run on the track at school. Once we have got on the bus a certain number of times we get medal – some of us have got our bronze medals for completing the run 5 times, and some of us will get our silver medal for completing 10 runs by the end of this term. We have also had some students from King Alfreds Academy come in and teach us some new ball skills and teamwork games. In PE Martin has taught us American football.

Earlier in the term we went swimming and learned how to keep safe in the water and what to do if we were in danger or someone else was.

For Chinese New Year, we ran an assembly and did a small play about the story of how the years are named after different animals.



Written by Destiny and Abbie

Student Centre

It has continued to be a productive and busy academic year in the Student Centre. We have been continuing with our overarching theme of wellbeing, with the students having lots of opportunities to be outside, exercising and completing mindful activities. Weekly swimming has continued and we have been so impressed with the progress the students have been making. |

The Year 12 students have continued to complete weekly work experience at Blenheim Palace, and we are now starting to see some of our hard work paying off with bulbs and seeds we have planted, blossoming. Year 12 students have also begun a weekly visit to the local Church to complete cleaning and gardening jobs as part of their volunteering for Bronze D of E. |

Some of our Year 13s and 14s have begun a collaborative project with the Wantage Day Centre, doing a weekly music class and having social time. This is supporting transitions into adulthood, whilst allowing us to catch up with some Fitzwaryn alumni each week. |

Clubs have continued to go from strength to strength, and our Student Centre snails have had some babies which has caused much excitement amongst students (and staff!). |

Students are growing in independence when out in the community and our weekly travel training sessions are becoming more and more adventurous with regular trips to local towns using public transport. |

We have had a fantastic turn out at our coffee mornings this term and this has allowed us to give a donation to other classes within the school for them to buy something for their class. Thank you to all the parents, carers, family and friends who have come to support. |



Enrichment Update from Sarah GP

What a busy and exciting five weeks we have had! We have enjoyed a wide range of enrichment opportunities, and it has been wonderful to see so many of our pupils trying new activities, building confidence and spending time together outside of the classroom.

February Half-Term

We celebrated the year of the Horse and Pancake Day. Pupils practiced flipping pancakes, used chopsticks in the Chinese restaurant tuff tray, and had fun!

Half term and holiday camps are a time to relax with friends, build new friendships and have fun outside of the classroom.

After-School Clubs

Our After-School Clubs are open to all pupils who attend Fitzwaryn School. We offer a variety of sessions throughout the week, with different activities taking place each evening. These sessions are tailored to the pupils attending, allowing us to adapt activities to their interests and needs while providing opportunities to try new things, develop skills and spend time with friends in a supportive and relaxed environment. It has also been lovely to see new pupils joining the sessions this half term and new friendships being made.

Youth Club

Our Youth Club runs every Wednesday from 3:15–5:30pm and is open to students from Willow, Pine, Rowan, Chestnut, Holly, Elder & Oak. It continues to be a popular part of the week for many pupils. The club includes a tuck shop (optional extra), which gives pupils a valuable opportunity to practise using money and make healthy choices. Next term we will be encouraging pupils to take on more responsibility by helping to manage and run the tuck shop themselves, supporting independence and confidence. There are plenty of activities to enjoy including table tennis, air hockey, crafts and games, and as the weather begins to improve, we are hoping to make greater use of the outdoor space

We are also incredibly grateful for the support of two fantastic DoE students who volunteer with us each week: Logan from FCC & Ben from Fitzwaryn Student Centre.

Beatbox

Beatbox takes place at King Alfreds Centre Site on Thursday evening from 4-6:00pm and is open to students from Holly, Elder, and Oak. This provides a fantastic opportunity for our students to take part in activities in the community and meeting new friends from the wider community. The sessions offer a welcoming and supportive environment where students can build confidence and enjoy new experiences. If your child would like to attend in the future, please let me know so we can add them to the waiting list.

Work Experience

This half term we have been exploring new roles and having a swap around so pupils from the Student Centre can have a new experience in a new working environment. We welcome Lockinge Estate joinery team and have seen the amazing work produced whilst with them. We continue to work with Waitrose, Vale & Downlands Museum, The Sanctuary Nursing Home, Cornerstone Cafe, Blenheim Palace, and Wantage Library.

If any of our wonderful parents have a workplace that would offer pupils this valuable learning opportunity, please do let me know.

Duke of Edinburgh – Student Centre

Our Duke of Edinburgh students have continued their volunteering within the student centre, supporting a range of activities and contributing positively to the wider school community. Students have started a new volunteering placement at St Peter & St Paul Church working hard on gardening and supporting inside the church with weekly maintenance tasks. It has been fantastic to see their commitment, teamwork, and willingness to help others.

L1 Forestry in the Community & Conservation

Students in Holly & Chestnut have been engaged in lots of community tasks with Sustainable Wantage and Wild Wantage. They have planted hedges at Alfred's Well and Wantage Park. At Medlar House Woodland they supported Harry with his young woodland, digging around trees and giving them nutrients before the spring growth.

Dance Festival – Tuesday 10 March

Seven pupils from Senior School took part in the Dance Festival at the New Theatre in Oxford. For many of them, performing on a large stage in front of an audience of hundreds was a huge

challenge. They showed incredible bravery and determination, overcoming their fears to deliver a fantastic performance. The cheering, clapping and applause throughout brought smiles from ear to ear, and it was a very special moment for everyone involved. We are extremely proud of them, Miss Walker and Mrs Hayes-Partlett who performed and choreographed. We already have students who want to go next year!!

We were thrilled to receive emails from members of the public following the performance -

"I just wanted to say how brilliant the dancers from Fitzwaryn School were on Tuesday night at the New Theatre. My daughter was also performing, and we really enjoyed clapping along to their line dancing. It was a wonderful part of the evening."

The office team took a call the next morning from Emily who wanted to "let us know how impressed she was" and said that "the children from Fitzwaryn did so well and were a great representation for Fitzwaryn school and that their performance was amazing."



It just leaves me to wish everyone a very happy holiday, and we look forward to seeing the children back at school on **Monday 13th April 2026**

With very best wishes

Stephanie Coneboy

Headteacher