

Summer 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a very busy summer term, I would like to share with you some highlights from each class:

Maple Class

Maple Class has had another busy term with hot weather challenges, sports day, extra-curricular days and exploring different fairytales. We have had fun learning and participating in sensory stories relating to Goldilocks and The Three Bears, and Little Red Riding Hood. Learners engaged in role play and art activities relating to these fairytales to develop mark making, fine motor, communication and creativity skills. 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 making progress towards individual number related IEP targets.

In wider curriculum subjects, learners have been exploring our topic of 'Fairy Tales' further. In cooking, learners have been using seasonal vegetables to create some delicious salads, snacks and savoury cupcakes - a favourite has been vegetable kebabs and carrot cupcakes. This has been a nice link with science where learners have been exploring and planting different vegetables and plants. It has been lovely watching the plants grow, experiencing the whole cycle of seed to food consumption first hand.

Art is always a favourite in Maple class, and this term has been no different. Learners have been working on developing their knowledge of different materials with different textures to create crowns which have been used during fairytale role play. I am always amazed to see the creations the children produce and the level of creativity and problem-solving that every child shows.

I am so proud of everyone in Maple class for the amazing progress every learner has made this year. It has been a privilege being your teacher this year - we have had lots of fun!
I wish you a great and well-deserved summer break and look forward to seeing you around school next year.



Beech Class

Beech Class have had a busy Summer term and everyone has worked incredibly hard. Our topic has been Fairy Tales, and we have enjoyed exploring our class stories of Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Little Red Riding Hood. Pupils have participated in lots of role-play and sensory activities linked to the stories as well as developing their number skills inspired by bears and bowls of porridge!

All pupils have also worked incredibly hard on developing their communication skills and have blown all the staff away by how confidently they can now make requests and interact with adults. One of our highlights this term was our additional Panathlon sports day provided by the Tim Henman Association when we enjoyed lots of new sports such as Boccia and Curling.



Cedar Class

Cedar Class have had a wonderful end to the school year! Terms 5 and 6 have been packed with exciting garden adventures as we explored our topic, *The Secret Garden*. The children thoroughly enjoyed this immersive topic, which saw them planting and growing seeds and flowers, designing their very own pairs of wellies, and taking part in some wonderful role-play activities.

Maths sessions were brought to life using our Pre-Maths sensory story starters, paired with lots of maths songs. We also spent time using tape measures and rulers to measure and estimate the height and width of various objects.

Our art lessons have been a vibrant mix of colours and textures as we created our very own Picasso-inspired pictures and paintings.

A real highlight for the class this term has been our swimming sessions, where all of the pupils made great progress in their swimming abilities, learning to stay safe and explore the water more independently.

Sports Day was another 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 they have made and everything they have achieved. They leave this chapter of their Fitzwaryn journey full of confidence, ready for the adventures that lie ahead. We wish them all the very best!



Hazel class



Hazel class have had another fun-filled term. This term our topic has been the secret garden. We have linked multiple areas of our work to the outside areas throughout the term. The pupils have enjoyed planting and growing their own vegetables, which they then got to taste.

Throughout terms 5 and 6 we have also been developing our cycling skills, we practised our balancing, braking and pedalling skills. The children have grown in confidence and independence.

Hazel class had a lovely Sports Day - we all worked together supporting each other throughout the activities.

Well done Hazel class, your hard work, enthusiasm and teamwork have been great to see. It is wonderful to reflect on all the hard work that Hazel class children have completed and the successes they have achieved.

Ash Class

It has been a busy and exciting two terms in Ash Class, with lots of practical learning, creativity and opportunities for our pupils to grow in confidence.

Our literacy learning has been inspired by the beautiful story *The Secret Garden*, where pupils explored key vocabulary, sequenced events and created their own imaginative versions of the story. We also enjoyed a sensory recount called *My Garden Adventure* and created our own Garden Adventure stories.

In Maths, pupils have continued to build their mathematical confidence through practical, hands-on learning. They have developed their understanding of place value, explored analogue time, learnt positional and directional language, measured using both standard and non-standard units, and applied their learning to a range of problem-solving activities.

In Science we planted seeds, observed how plants grow and explored insects.

Developing independence continues to be a key part of our curriculum. This term pupils have:

- prepared healthy fruit and potato salads while developing chopping, peeling and mixing skills
- learnt about the importance of brushing their teeth and maintaining good oral hygiene
- enjoyed learning to ride bicycles safely, developing balance and coordination

Throughout the summer term pupils have worked hard to develop their confidence in athletics, preparing for Sports Day, while also learning about friendships, emotions, body changes, making choices and what makes our school community a safe and happy place.



Willow Class

Willow Class have had a busy and engaging summer term exploring the theme 'out and about', with a particular focus on picnics and road safety. Pupils have enjoyed exploring sensory stories linked to journeys, picnics, and sharing.

In Term 6, we have seen pupils embedding their independent skills into daily routines, with an increase in packing their bags ready to go home and using check lists when leaving the classroom - going to coffee morning with their money was a hit! They have continued to show excellent transitions between lessons, demonstrating fantastic independence by moving their own chairs between desks and the carpet.

The class have also excelled in their cooking lessons with Mrs Talbot - cutting, grating and trying new and familiar foods. They have been active every morning with physio/sensory circuits showing great listening skills and following instructions well.

Willow class went swimming in Term 5 - which continues to be an exciting trip for them. This linked in well with our theme topic as they got to go on a trip every week and brought their kits with them! They practised road safety out in the carparks and listened to their adults.

A particular highlight of this term was of course the successful and fun Sports Day. Pupils enjoyed spending time together as a key stage and taking part in a range of activities – they enjoyed the boccia activity as this was something they also experienced in the Panathlon challenge day. They practised hard for it in their PE lessons and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

I wish every pupil well for their next academic year. I will miss them all very much but I know I will get to see them around the school, so it is not goodbye!



Pine Class

Pine Class have had a busy and exciting Terms 5 and 6, taking part in a wide range of activities linked to our topic, 'Out and About'.

In English, pupils enjoyed learning about Sir David Attenborough through a sensory story experience and writing facts about his life during handwriting lessons. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and writing skills continue to develop.

One of the highlights of the term has been our cooking lessons. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed learning about the different courses in a three-course meal, preparing a starter, main course and dessert over the term. They brought all of their skills together by transforming our classroom into an Italian restaurant, where they proudly served and enjoyed their very own three-course meal!

Another highlight has been watching friendships flourish each day. During our PSI lessons, pupils have been developing their turn-taking and social communication skills by choosing peers to invite to play and enjoying a range of board games and outdoor activities together. It has been fantastic to see these skills transfer naturally into playtimes and across the school day.

Pine Class, there have been so many wonderful moments to celebrate this year. It has been a privilege to share so many golden moments with each of you. You have all worked incredibly hard, shown resilience when tackling new challenges, and made fantastic progress in your independence, communication and learning. We are all so proud of everything you have achieved!



Rowan Class

Wow! What a jam-packed summer term it has been for Rowan Class! From Sports Day and transition activities to exciting trips, the children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm.

Earlier this term, the class enjoyed a visit to The Junior Citizens Trust, where they took part in a range of interactive safety scenarios. They learned how to respond in different emergency situations, including when and how to make a 999 call. Everyone listened carefully and contributed thoughtfully.

In Art, we have been inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy and used his creations as a starting point for our own nature art. Using natural materials such as pinecones, leaves, twigs and flowers, we created pieces including spirals, mandalas and artwork inspired by different emotions.

In History, we have been learning about King Alfred and comparing his reign with that of modern-day kings. The children were particularly fascinated by the royal robes and Crown Jewels, which inspired us to design and make our own regal creations. We decorated sparkling crowns with gems and crystals, and some of us even learned a few basic stitches to create decorative textile designs.



Senior School

This term, some of us completed our Functional Skills assessments in English and Maths. We worked hard, completed lots of practice, and were pleased with how well we did.



We also enjoyed a visit to Cotswold Wildlife Park as part of our Into the Wild topic. We explored the park, looked at the animals, and read the information boards to learn more about them. It was a really interesting day.



We spent time practising for Sports Day by learning the high jump and javelin. On Sports Day, we took part in these events as well as a range of running races. We all tried our best and enjoyed taking part.

In Maths, we used our measuring skills to bake cakes, cookies, brownies and flapjacks. We carefully measured and weighed the ingredients before sharing our bakes and enjoying them together.

We have enjoyed swimming and cross-country this year, and some of us were proud to receive medals for our cross-country achievements. It has been a busy and exciting year!

The Student Centre

Well, what a busy term it has been in the Student Centre! We have felt very proud of the students who have completed accreditation units, sat Functional Skills exams, supported with whole school events and continued with fantastic work in the local community.

Our Day Centre transition project has gone from strength to strength with us doing two 'showcase' sessions to staff and students there which were very well received. Students have enjoyed doing weekly swimming and we have been impressed with not only their progress in the water, but also their willingness to support younger year groups, demonstrating fantastic kindness and maturity. It has been lovely to read references from work experience mentors, stating the skills our students have built up over the academic year.

Some students enjoyed a gardening project at 'Style Acres' garden this term where they were able to make bird boxes and bug hotels. We were very impressed with the attitude of our students when they took part in trips to the Kassam Stadium and Oxford Fire station for a Junior Citizens experience.

Our Year 14 leavers have had the chance to do transition visits to local colleges which have all been very successful. We will miss them but look forward to seeing them back at coffee mornings, hopefully! We look forward to celebrating them and a very successful year, at our leavers' event and at our Student Centre lunch out at Wildwood. We wish you all a fantastic summer holiday.



A message from Mrs G

As another fantastic year at Fitzwaryn comes to an end, we're looking back on the many exciting off-site opportunities our pupils have experienced. From developing new skills to building confidence and independence, it has been a year full of memorable achievements.

Throughout the year, three classes visited the Wantage leisure centre each week to take part in swimming lessons. It was wonderful to watch pupils grow in confidence and progress in the water. Their determination and perseverance made every success a cause for celebration.



Lower School pupils also enjoyed regular horse-riding sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Supported by Evelyn and the dedicated Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) volunteers, pupils developed their balance, coordination, communication, and riding skills. They learned how to guide their horses, practised trotting, and embraced new challenges with enthusiasm, resilience, and plenty of smiles along the way.



To round off the week, some pupils took part in hydrotherapy sessions in the warm pool. These sessions provided opportunities to build strength, improve mobility, and develop water confidence in a relaxed and supportive environment. Pupils enjoyed swimming, playing interactive games, and exercising alongside their friends, while also developing greater independence and wellbeing. The laughter, teamwork, and sense of achievement seen during these sessions perfectly captured the joy they brought to everyone involved.



A message from Sarah GP

What a year it has been! Looking back, it's hard to believe just how much our pupils have achieved. Whether they've been staying after school to try something new, volunteering in the local community, taking part at Beatbox, enjoying work experience or simply growing in confidence through new opportunities, they have made us incredibly proud every step of the way.

One of the highlights of the year was celebrating our amazing volunteers and work experience partners with a special afternoon tea. Our students worked incredibly hard to bake a delicious selection of treats, prepare the refreshments, welcome guests and host the event. It was a wonderful opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has supported our pupils throughout the year, and our students did a fantastic job making everyone feel so welcome.

A huge thank you goes to our families, staff, volunteers and the many local organisations who have welcomed and supported our pupils this year. Your kindness, patience and encouragement have helped create experiences that simply couldn't happen within the classroom alone.

We're now looking forward to a summer full of fun at our holiday camps before returning in September with even more exciting opportunities. Have a wonderful summer and thank you for being part of such a fantastic year.



A message from Leanne O'Donnell – Chair of Friends of Fitzwaryn

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported us this year.

We have had a fantastic year and held some successful events, including:

- A Christmas Fair
- Easter Bingo
- A stall at St John's Summer Fair
- A stall at Elms Primary School Summer Fair
- The Summer Raffle

We will be holding a stall at Cholsey Summer Fair on Saturday 22nd August, so please do come along and say hello.

Overall, the amount raised has been just over a fantastic **£2600!!**

Looking ahead to next year, we have a stall booked for St Amand's Summer Fair in September 2026 (rescheduled due to the hot weather) and we are already starting to plan our **Christmas Fair on Saturday 28th November**.

We have a wide range of second-hand uniform available. Please visit our Facebook page and we will be happy to let you know what we currently have in stock.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Leanne

Chair, Friends of Fitzwaryn

Fitzwaryn's expansion

I am delighted to say that the Department for Education has approved the growth of Fitzwaryn. We will be opening Fitzwaryn@St John's on St John's Academy's primary site in September with 12 pupils across 2 classes. Then in January 2027, the secondary classes will be open to 12 pupils. Numbers will gradually rise over the next year to 40 across both sites.

There is much work going on in the background, but we are all incredibly excited about the project especially as it is in collaboration with St John's which is already a beacon of excellence.

In the Autumn Term the Senior Leadership Team across all sites will be:

- Executive Headteacher – Stephanie Coneboy
- Head of School – William Harvey
- Deputy Headteacher – Hannah Gordon
- Assistant Headteacher – Kate Murphy
- Designated Safeguarding Lead – Claire Tobin
- School Business Manager – Helen Davies

Message from Wayne Tica – Chair of Governors

As this school year draws to a close, I want to offer sincere thanks, on behalf of the Governing Board, to our staff, families, and pupils.

To our staff: your dedication and professionalism in supporting every child's individual needs continues to be the foundation of this school's success.

To our families: thank you for your continued partnership and trust throughout the year.

To our pupils: Congratulations on your achievements and progress, both academic and personal.

The Governing Board remains committed to ensuring the school provides the highest standard of education and support for every child. We're grateful for the collective effort that has gone into this year, and we look forward to building on that progress in September.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer.

It just leaves me to thank you all for the collaboration between home and school and wish you all a very happy summer holiday!

See you again in September!

With best wishes

Stephanie Coneboy

Headteacher