



## Fitzwaryn School

28<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope that you are all remaining well at home and managing to keep busy. Do remember that we have some staff at school should you need any assistance with anything – we will do our very best to help you.

At the end of each long term, I usually send out a newsletter outlining all of the wonderful things that the children have been learning about at school. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to do that at the end of Term 4, but I didn't want the wonderful work and memories of some great learning to be lost so I asked the teaching team to remind us of the work that was completed from January up until the day the children were no longer at school.

It does seem a long time ago, but hopefully the text and photographs will bring back some lovely memories for the children.

### Maple Class

Maple class have had a great term since Christmas. The Children have explored the topics of Transport and Space. In Art and Design Technology we have focussed on junk modelling. The children made some fantastic tractors in term 3 and space rockets in term 4. We also all worked together as a team to create the solar system from papier mâché. The children then also practiced their handwriting and wrote labels for each of the planets.

In maths we have explored distances using lots of different vehicles, as well as making and throwing different types of rocket. Our favourite was on world book day when we used a balloon to help our rocket fly!! For World Book Day this year we wore our pyjamas to school and explored our class story 'What Does an Anteater Eat?'. The children created some beautiful artwork as well as exploring some of the different foods the Anteater ate in the book.



## Beech Class



In Beech class we had a fun-filled Spring term! Our topic in term 3 was 'Transport' where we created junk model vehicles and worked on our geography skills by surveying how people travelled to school. We also looked at the different patterns made by tyres by rolling a range of vehicles through paint. In maths, we explored real money and used it in role play.

Our topic for Term 4 was 'Space'. We have looked at Earth from space and this created a sense of awe and wonder for many members of Beech class! The children also made their own aliens to go on our space display! In English, we listened to rhymes and poetry, a firm favourite was 'Zim Zam Zoom' by James Carter.

We enjoyed World Book Day where we made cheesy traffic cones and did yoga in our pyjamas!



## Cedar Class

Cedar Class enjoyed their topics on 'Dinosaurs' and 'People who help us' in terms 3 and 4. In our dinosaur topic, each week the pupils learnt about a different dinosaur using books, internet searches, 'Andy's dinosaur adventures' and the excellent existing dinosaur knowledge of some of our class members. The art activities were particularly motivating to all of the class including making junk models of our favourite dinosaurs and creating dinosaur fossils using clay and salt dough. Out in the horticulture area, we planted some garlic and potatoes that hopefully are growing well while we are at home; we are looking forward to using them in our cooking at some point in the future.



## Hazel Class

Hazel class had a fun filled and very busy term 3, full of lots of exciting activities based around dinosaurs! We had a dinosaur break-in at school and pupils had great fun going on a dinosaur clue hunt and writing news reports about the events that they thought had taken place. We also learnt about a historic figure, Mary Anning who made the first discovery of fossils. We used clay to make dinosaur models, created a fact poster, made dinosaur sandwiches and lots more! We were also very lucky to receive resources from The Natural History Museum which included; large dinosaur toys, fossils, stickers and different dinosaur lengths which were measured out with string. Pupils really enjoyed comparing the different dinosaur lengths and seeing how big they were.

In term 4 our topic moved onto 'People Who Help Us'. Hazel class were really excited about this topic and wrote down all their questions they wanted to ask to find out about the different emergency services. Pupils enjoyed making their own police badges, taking part in different role play situations, designing their own fire engines, comparing hospitals and uniforms from the past to present, completing health checks on each other, cooking healthy foods and much more. We also had a children's nurse from the Royal Berkshire Hospital come and visit and talk to the class about her role. All pupils had pre-prepared questions to ask and thoroughly enjoyed learning how to use a stethoscope and eye torch!

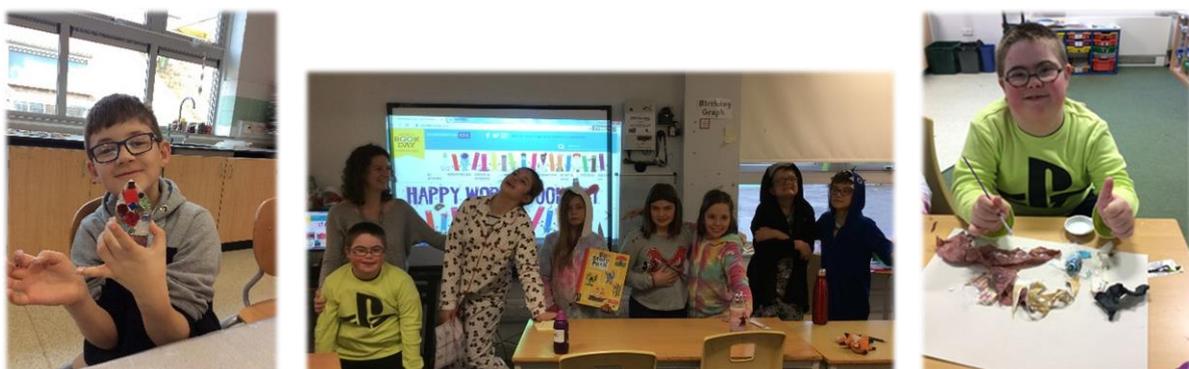
Pupils have also been working really hard on their addition and subtraction skills in maths and have made great progress. We have been working hard on their money skills and making the correct amounts to be able to buy a treat from the class shop. They have enjoyed lots of practical lessons and whole class games. In science we have been learning about the skeleton and pupils have really enjoyed singing songs, playing games, completing skeleton puzzles and labelling diagrams.

On World Book Day, Hazel class enjoyed a trip to the local bookshop where they were each allowed to choose a book of their choice to purchase.



## Ash Class

Ash class have enjoyed learning about Isambard Kingdom Brunel. We have made engines and built bridges. We have also been lucky to have an artist in action in class and we made beautiful colourful leaves. We planted some beans and watched how their roots and stems grow. We also grew potatoes and were watching them grow.



### Willow Class

In Willow Class we enjoyed our work on our topic - 'People Who Help Us'. In English we focussed on writing reports and enjoyed learning about different people in and out of school. In Maths we were learning about money. We really enjoyed Sport Relief day, especially the running, dancing and basketball. We enjoyed coming into school in our PJs and doing lots of work for World Book Day.



### Pine Class

It has been another busy term in Pine class! The pupils really enjoyed learning all about Space before half term. They learnt all about the different planets, the history of space travel and even completed some astronaut training. They wrote their own stories in Big Write and painted some space pictures. After half term, we learnt about the environment and climate change. The pupils enjoyed finding out what effect we have on our environment as well as learning what happens to our rubbish and recycling. They enjoyed learning about environmentally friendly materials and used them to make models and toys.



### Rowan Class

Rowan Class had great term learning lots about Space and the Environment. In Science last term, the pupils have really enjoyed learning all about space including finding out facts about the different planets before moving on to learning about climate change and how humans have an effect on our environment. The pupils have also worked hard writing their own space stories in Big Write and learning about newspapers. We started to make our own toys out of recycled materials and learnt about recycling.



### Chestnut Class

Term 3 and 4 seem but a distant memory but they were certainly busy and jam-packed with exciting learning opportunities. We learnt how to deal with different wounds - nose bleeds, cuts and grazes, burns and scalds and sprains - and had the opportunity to look at and use the different first aid equipment needed to treat these injuries. We spent many a wet and windy afternoon geo-caching and our map reading skills were put to the test when we visited Wantage Park to do this. We continued to cook for the whole of the Senior School on Wednesdays and one of the most popular dishes was vegetarian enchiladas served with crème fraiche and salad. And who can forget our art exhibition! The pupils worked so hard towards this and we were incredibly proud of their achievement.



### Holly Class



In Holly Class this term we have really been getting stuck into our ASDAN work, in particular the Health and Survival Module linked to Geocaching. We have been building up to going out to look for different caches in the local environment by practising our map reading skills, ability to follow instructions, work with increasing independence and accurately record information around the school grounds and at Wantage Park. The pupils have shown a real determination to find the different caches we have set out, despite the weather. They have also worked with increasing independence and it has been a real pleasure to see the enthusiasm with which they have risen to the challenge set each week.



## Student Centre

As part of our NOCN unit on 'Eating Out' we enjoyed a lunch out at Oxy in Oxford to celebrate Chinese New Year having already researched the different traditions associated with this festival. Students really enjoyed sampling foods from the buffet and are keen for a return visit.

We finished our class book, 'War Horse', and then had a movie afternoon watching the movie adaptation. The ending of the book prompted some tears and we discussed that watching the film was actually less emotionally challenging than reading the book: one student commented that 'the book was more moving; I didn't expect that'. As well as researching the context of the book, students also produced some great art based on historical photographs of animals used in WW1.



After applying and going through a formal interview process, we were delighted to appoint Chelsie Parker as our DofE Award Ambassador. She will be helping to organise our Awards Presentation Evening in due course.

We welcomed Al Sylvester, a polar explorer, to the Student Centre and he shared his experiences of overcoming difficult circumstances to undertake expeditions in many challenging environments. We had loads of fun trying out some of his kit!



Year 14 Work Experience placements continued in school, in Stirlings Care Home and at the Buzz Café: Dougie gives his placement '10/10' so thank you to them!



We also welcomed some residents from Stirlings to another lunch in the Student Centre. This has become a regular fixture in our calendar and is much enjoyed by both groups. After lunch, there was lots of chat and board games.

With our Enterprise partners at Kingfisher School we have made seeded bird cakes as well as delicious marmalade for sale. Our potted primroses sold well at the recent Parents' Evening and the three Coffee Mornings held this term raised over £150 for Maple, Beech and Cedar! Thank you to all our customers.

I do hope that you enjoyed reading this – we are all missing the children and I only hope that we are together again sooner rather than later!

Stay safe.

With best wishes

Stephanie Coneboy  
Headteacher