



ADDINGTON NEWSLETTER



April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Another busy term has sped by and despite continued Covid absences of both staff and pupils, the curriculum has continued to provide wide and varied learning opportunities that are detailed on the following pages. Pupils have been thrilled with the variety of curriculum activities from seeing chickens hatch, to playing again in sports tournaments, to enjoying outdoor learning in the new Early Years mud kitchen, to learning yoga poses on new balance boards, to hearing the Senior Leadership Team read stories in the library on World Book Day – to name but a few!

As I write, 27 6th Formers are on a residential at Swindon PGL Centre, trying out many activities such as rock climbing, canoeing and rafting. This is the first residential for over 2½ years and there was huge excitement from the students as we waved the coach goodbye on Monday. They have not had the best week of weather but the Residential Lead, William, has reported how much they have learnt, enjoyed and participated in over the week despite the wind and rain, albeit with the occasional spot of sunshine!

Finally, I would like to wish Chris Jones who has been with us at Addington for over 23 years, a very happy, healthy and long retirement. Many of you will know Chris, who has been responsible for Horticulture in the school. She has fostered a love of gardening and the outdoors in countless numbers of students, has gained many of them qualifications in Horticulture and not least made the school grounds a pleasure to look at with her many floral and plant displays. My thanks go to her for her incredible commitment to Addington School and the difference she has made to the lives of many, many children and young people.

You will read in the newsletter that there are some great events planned for the summer term this year, the first time we have run them since the pandemic, so please save the date for our Summer Festival Family day.

I hope that you all enjoy a happy -and fingers crossed - sunny Easter holiday and I look forward to welcoming pupils back on **Monday 25 April**.

Yours faithfully

Sara Attra
Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now 2/3 of the way through the school year and still keeping busy supporting families however we are needed. One way or another, we have been in touch with over 65% of Addington families – a fact we are very proud of.

In this next summer term, we are really hoping to be able to host some coffee and cake mornings as well as run some workshops so please look out for invites. We are also planning on hosting some drop-in sessions both online and in person so if there's something you would like some advice on, or support with, we would love to hear from you.

Ellie is going to run some regular sessions so that parents can come and ask questions around any concerns they may have whilst having a hand or foot massage with some essential oils. Further details about this will be sent out soon.

We are working on a "Supporting Toilet Training" guide and presentation for families as we understand knowing where and when to begin can be baffling!

In the last few weeks we have been asked about Short Breaks and respite frequently. We have put some information around this, as well as lots more advice on our [Family Support Workers page](#) and on our [Community Links page](#) on the school website – please keep checking this out.

We know that school holidays can be particularly tricky for many of our children and families, especially the longer periods like the next two weeks. If you need any advice or support, Ellie will be working throughout the Easter holidays, so please feel free to contact her, either by email fsw@addington.wokingham.sch.uk or by ringing her directly at the school on 0118 9669073 (press 3 then dial Ext. 282).

Enjoy the 'break' as much as possible, make some memories and take care,

Ellie Robinson and Toni Cannon
Family Support Workers

Parent Contact Information

Our communications with parents are mainly via emails, our school mobile app, texts and our school website www.addington.wokingham.sch.uk.

In order to do this, we need to be kept up to date with your latest email address and mobile numbers. If you have not been receiving emails from us, please let us know.

If you need to update us please email: office@addington.wokingham.sch.uk

Our Senior Leadership Team



Sara Attra
Head teacher



Lynda Wood
Deputy Head



David Maycock
Deputy Head



Eirfron
Watkinson
Assistant Head
teacher



Emer Moore
Assistant Head
teacher



Sue Tod
School
Business
Manager

School Mobile App

Our School Mobile App can be downloaded from the links below.

[iTunes](#)

[Play Store](#)

Once you have downloaded the School Jotter app **you will need to select “Addington School” from within the app.**

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The school mobile App is **FREE to download** and enables you to receive news updates and alerts on your phone or other mobile device. You can also view our newsletters and see photos of the students.

Addington Youth Club

Managed and staffed by Wokingham Bracknell & Districts Mencap

Wednesday evening 7pm to 9pm
Fun for all youngsters from Year 9 up

Look out for the activities planned for the current term -come along and try a session.

Contact Wokingham Mencap on 0300 777 8539 for more information.

School Dinners

This is to inform you that all school lunches must now be paid for online. The school will no longer be able to collect cash on a daily basis.

If your child has school dinners, and there is a balance outstanding on your account, we would be grateful if you would kindly clear this balance as soon as possible.

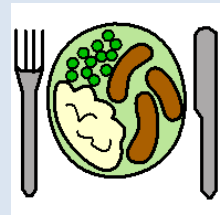
If you have any query or difficulty with payment of this amount, please let us know and we will endeavour to help.

You will need to register online if you have not done so before. **A letter with your personal log on details has been sent home with your child.** If you have previously logged on to the Tucasi system but have forgotten your password, please follow the instructions on the login screen.

As a reminder:

Primary lunch is £2.15

Secondary lunch is £2.35



Please remember that money for school dinners should be paid **in advance**.

If you have any problems, please contact Admin on office@addington.wokingham.sch.uk.

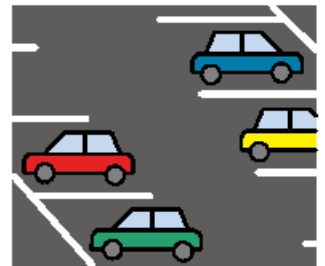
CAR PARKING REMINDER

Leisure Centre Car Park

This can be used by parents for dropping off and collecting children.

School Car Park

Parent parking on site is restricted primarily for safety and to those parents who have been authorised to do so. Those parents that do have permission will have been issued a pass which must be displayed clearly in the windscreen. Between the times of 8:45 – 9:15 and 2:45 – 3:20 only parents with passes can enter our car park. Outside of drop-off and pick up times (8:45 – 9:15 and 2:45 – 3:20) all parents may use our car park for school related meetings or picking up/dropping off their child outside of normal hours. A pass is not needed outside drop off and pick up times.



The two disabled bays near the school are for priority wheelchair users and larger vehicles with tail lifts.

Permitted drivers must use the one-way system marked out and only park in marked parent or disabled spaces.

All pedestrians must use the zebra crossing and the pavement when walking children to and from the site. **DO NOT WALK** on the road as a short cut. This is very dangerous and could result in an accident



Headteacher's Award Winners



Congratulations to the following students:

HEADTEACHER AWARD – SPRING TERM AWARD

Winner:

Chloe Wilkins

Runners Up:

Cecil Oduro-Koranteng

Arjun Kamineri

Lucas Weatherley

Marcus Kaczak

Branden Yates

Josey Thomas

Rowan Nyamaradzo

Chanique Watson

Caroline Hepwood

Alayna Tariq

Jaysen Adeliyi

HEADTEACHER AWARD WINNERS – (28.2.22 – 8.4.22)

Early Years

Arjun Kamenini

Brian Matondo

Maisie Weatherley

Key Stage 2

Maya Onwualu

Key Stage 3

Joshua Martin

Key Stage 4

Josey Thomas

Key Stage 5

Caroline Hepwood

Complex & Sensory and Therapeutic Needs

Harman Bedi

Eshal Zara



Autism and Me – A Journey **By Daisy Cripps**



At a very young age, I was shy
Overwhelmed and nervous, my peers wondered why
At four years old, autism was diagnosed
I wouldn't enjoy mainstream, they supposed
A wonderful woman, Liz Meek, arrived
And suggested a place where I would thrive
Happiness, she said, more important than
Exam papers, and she made a plan
For me to attend a school called Addington
And over the years, lift a fearful curtain

Year in, year out, I experienced ups and downs
Who doesn't? However, I don't look back with many frowns
Surrounded by supporters, both teachers and students
Ensured my confidence had very little dents
I've been through a lot with them
With my loving parents at the helm
I've made friends over the years
They are all such dears!

Today, in Sixth Form, I have changed a lot
Knowing my place, my happiness I have got
Liz Meek has now left, and in her place
Is head teacher Sara, with a friendly face
They both nurtured me a great deal
And my other teachers, for real
And of course, my lovely parents
Who once I slept with in a tent
In the pouring rain, specially, to prepare
For DofE, which was an experience beyond compare
I have an art GCSE under my belt
Painting, sculpting, experimenting with felt
Alongside Heather, an art teacher who
Helped me find out what I could do

Thank you to everyone who helped me through
Good times and bad, though I have helped them too
With art, problems, kindness and care
I'm really lucky; though love is not so rare





SPORTS PAGE



Berkshire School Winter Games: Boccia

On Tuesday 29th March we took primary and secondary teams to the Berkshire School Games Boccia tournament held at the National Sports Centre Bisham Abbey. They competed against mainstream and SEN schools from around Berkshire. The primary team from Rowan class won 2 games and finished fifth. The secondary team from Elm made it through to the knockout rounds, winning one but losing in the semi-final to finish fourth. Well done to all the players, who enjoyed the day, particularly the part when they were presented with their medals.



Cricket Multi-skills Festival at Bulmershe

On Thursday 17th March we took pupils from Lily and Daffodil class to a mainstream YR1 and YR2 cricket multiskills festival in the Bulmershe Sports Centre sports hall. There were warm up games, five skills stations and a kwick cricket game. It was the first sporting trip for these pupils and they coped really well and had a good time.





Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2021-2022

Once again this has been a tricky half-term for our bronze DofE team with Covid, illness and other events affecting staff and pupils. However, we have been on a couple of training walks, some tent building and camp cooking practice. On both walks we hung up the bird feeders that we made last term.



Dates for expeditions:
Practice Expedition
Thursday 19th May and
Friday 20th May
Qualifying Expedition
Thursday 7th July and Friday
8th July.



Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award 2021-2022



Once again this has been a tricky half-term for our silver DofE team with Covid, illness and other events affecting staff and pupils. We went on one training walk to Woodford Park and spent a good team building afternoon in the park. We have spent a couple of lessons getting to know OS mapping and then mapped our routes for the qualifying expedition. We also worked on our aim, which is to investigate historical and man-made features along our routes.



Expedition dates:
Practice Expedition Tuesday 24th May – Thursday 26th May 2022
Qualifying Expedition Wednesday 29th June – Friday 1st July 2022

Football Tournament at Reading Football Club

On Wednesday 2nd March we sent two teams to a 6-a-side football tournament at Reading Football Club's Academy training indoor dome and outdoor training pitches. It was the first sporting trip from Addington for two years. The pupils were so excited to be going again. The Amber team played well, scoring 6 goals. The Green team played brilliantly and won the trophy. Everyone enjoyed the trip and are looking forward to the next tournament after Easter.





Staff Rebound Therapy Training

We invited a rebound therapy trainer to school to deliver two days of training to 10 staff new to rebound plus a refresher for Mel and Danny in the PE department. The newly qualified therapists will have lots of new ideas which will benefit our pupils and will give us more flexibility with our provision of rebound therapy at school. Well done to everyone for passing their training.



Early Years

Daisy Class

Growing - plants and animals -

This Spring term, Daisy class have watched how the bulbs we planted back in November grew shoots and leaves until beautiful flowers appeared, in perfect time to be the children's Mother's Day gifts. Whilst enjoying "The Hungry Caterpillar" as our sensory story, the children have explored the different foods in the story during food play. We observed how our very own hungry caterpillars wriggled, munched and spun cocoons. Now we are waiting for colourful butterflies to emerge and fly away, just like the caterpillar song we have been singing! With spring in the air, Daisy class decided to celebrate the Hindu festival of Colour, Holi. We celebrated with rainbow colourful lights, scarves, rice, powder paints and practised our Indian dance moves!



Sunflower Class

This term we have enjoyed exploring our new topic of 'Growing', especially listening to the story of the Very Hungry Caterpillar, and exploring different foods from the story during our food play sessions. We have also enjoyed watching our real-life caterpillars go into their chrysalis and turn into beautiful butterflies before we set them free! We have explored paint using a range of tools such as paintbrushes and potatoes, as well as our hands and feet during Art sessions this term- we celebrated Holi the festival of colour by painting with lots of different colours! It was lovely to have some nice sunny weather this term, and we enjoyed lots of outdoor learning, including some water play which we loved! We're looking forward to lots of fun Easter activities in our last week of term, including having our own Easter Egg hunt!



Daffodil Class

This term in Daffodil class they have enjoyed the topic of Growing this term. They have explored the story of 'Jack & the Bean Stalk' and 'The Enormous Tulip' making a story map to help them to react the story using props. We have been busy planting seeds and learning about parts of a plant and how to look after our own plants. The highlight of the term was having our own caterpillars and seeing them develop into butterflies and learning first-hand about the lifecycle of the butterfly. We have worked hard on our maths skills this term holding numbers in our mathematical brain and counting on using Numicon number shapes to complete addition sums. We have also explored shapes.

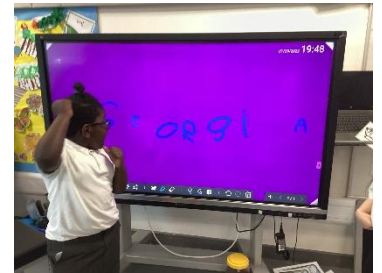


Lily Class

Lily Class have really enjoyed the 'Spring and Growing' topic this term! Here is a display of some of the amazing work we have created together! We have really enjoyed sharing the following stories and using them as inspiration for our learning: 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'Six Little Chicks' and 'We're Going on an Egg Hunt'.



We have learnt all about the lifecycles of butterflies, chickens and frogs! We have even had 5 caterpillars in class and we were so excited to see the first one transform into a beautiful butterfly this week! We can't wait to meet the other 4 when they emerge from their cocoons.

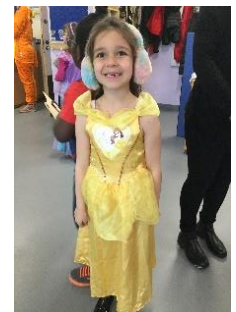


One of our highlights this term was enjoying a morning in the sensory garden on a warm and sunny day. All of the children got so much out of it and had many learning opportunities. It was lovely to sit and share our snack in the sunshine together.

We have had lots of food play opportunities this term. We cut up and tasted all of the fruits from 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' story, made chicks out of dry pasta and, most recently, we made a rabbit from a selection of fruits, a pancake, cheese strings and marshmallows. Again, we had the opportunity to handle and chop the food and taste anything we wanted to!



The children have been making fantastic progress in Maths! Our counting skills and number formation have improved so much and some of the children are becoming very confident in finding 1 more and 1 less. We have also had lots of mark-making and writing opportunities and it has been such a pleasure to see how proud the children have been of what they have produced.



Some of the children from Lily and Daffodil Class had the chance to take part in a cricket tournament at Bulmershe Leisure Centre. They were AMAZING and I hope you enjoyed the photos on Earwig. We'll leave you with a photo which not only sums up a magical day, but a wonderful term with many achievements to celebrate.

Have a wonderful Easter!



Primrose Class

This term in Primrose class we have been learning about growing, plants and animals. We have been exploring with different materials in our sensory art sessions, such as stamping with spring onions to create our Mother's Day cards and stamping with sponges to create our St Patrick's Day art, as well as adding feathers to chick outlines and using daffodils to create some beautiful pictures.



We have also been exploring curiosity boxes with numbers, different materials, musical instruments and different stuffed animals.

Outside, we have enjoyed mark making, examining numbers to 10 and water play! We have also loved playing the musical instruments along to nursery rhymes such as 'Old MacDonald' and '5 sleeping bunnies'.



We have been really busy and have had so much fun!



Tulip Class

This half term, Tulip class have been very busy learning all about our topic 'Growing Plants and Animals'. We have thoroughly enjoyed activities based on the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. Some activities the pupils have engaged well in, include; shared writing (painting the story using media), food play and retelling the story using sensory experiences and props and bucket themed caterpillar or butterfly activities.



This half term, we also went on our first school trip to Thames Valley Adventure Playground. The pupils had a fantastic time exploring this facility. Lots of the children particularly liked exploring the outdoor spaces, such as the electric train and the sand pit. The zip wire swing was another favourite for quite a few of the pupils.



Yoga , Music and Movement and Dough Disco in Early Years with Rainbow Yoga Claire ☐

This term we have had lots of creative fun through our topic of **Spring Lifecycles** and celebrating **Pancake Day, Holi** and **Easter**.

Our lemon scented and elderflower scented play dough smelt lovely to explore during our dough disco session on Pancake Day.



We have focused on poses (asanas) that help us feel creative and free this term so **Crystal**, **Aeroplane** and **Dragon** pose have been fun to explore with our bodies as the photos below show.



Meddy Teddy Yogi Bear has been enjoyed by the children in relaxation pose plus having time to explore our mindful toys to help relax our body and mind.



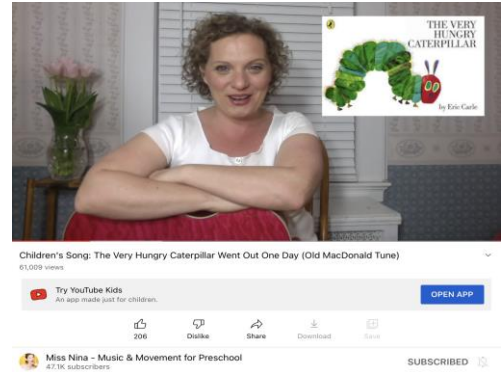


Our new **balance boards** in yoga have been explored imaginatively by the children and staff in our sessions....lots of fun plus having to work hard on balance and team work.

We have explored the lifecycle of a butterfly □ through yoga and from this term's story **The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle** has been interesting and we created a beautiful flow starting our bodies in **egg** pose (Crystal/child's asana) then moving into **caterpillar** □ pose (cat asana), then into a **cocoon** (cow asana) and finally moving our body as a beautiful fluttering **butterfly**. The coloured ribbons really helped our bodies move to the music and lots of creative shapes were made. Spending time watching our class caterpillars mindfully has very calming for the body and mind as well.



We have been enjoying our outside music box of instruments every Thursday lunchtime with Claire. Lots of creative rhythms have been created and the children have enjoyed making their independent song requests using the singing puppet bag and requesting songs from the symbol communication boards too.



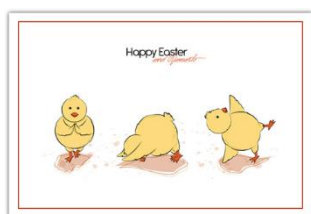
Miss Nina has been fun to sing and play instruments along too as she sings the whole story including all the Saturday treat foods to the tune of Alice the Camel on her red guitar. Here is the **You Tube** to play along to at home.

<https://youtu.be/sMmfJNQeF2k>



Exploring coloured sand during our creative mindful moments was very relaxing to create a sand mandala.

In this week of term, the children across Early Year classes have been exploring Easter poses with their bodies and feeling the benefits of them. A copy of these have been sent home to enjoy with our families over the holidays.



Happy Easter ☐ Everyone !

Key Stage 2 Newsletter

Willow Class

Willow Class have found this half term's topic "Amazing Eggs" "eggstremely" motivating ☺. We have explored new life and signs of spring through stories, art, music and real life exploration. Activities included a "signs of spring" walk as well as the huge excitement of watching chicks hatch on the web cam before meeting them in person. One of the stories we enjoyed was the story of the "Little Red Hen" and we had great fun making our own bread. We have had lots of fun exploring eggs and playing games such as "Egg and Spoon Race" and "Splat the Egg"!

Thank you to Rowan class for hosting the incubator, eggs and chicks until their return to the farm this week. The culmination of this topic will be our trip to a real farm to see lambs and other baby animals along with Easter assemblies, Easter egg hunt and games. The pupils have each made wonderful progress in different areas and we are very proud of all of them this term. A fantastic term Willow, well done!



Pine Class

This term Pine class have been learning about animals, especially life cycles and where different animals come from around the world. In Literacy, we have focused on the stories 'Elmer' and 'The Zoo Vet' and the children have enjoyed role playing being vets and learning how to care for animals. We also had the fortunate opportunity to visit live chicks! We have really enjoyed seeing them hatch from their eggs and grow into little chicks! The children have been so confident with stroking and holding them. This term we have been to Taplow, enjoyed the beautiful sunshine and celebrated World Book Day when the children thoroughly enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters. This term we have continued to make great progress in our independence skills and have had many opportunities to practise these across the school day. We are really looking forward to our topic next term 'Pirates - Land Ahoy!'. Well done Pine class for another fantastic term!



Rowan Class

This half term Rowan class have loved our spring topic, where we've been exploring baby animals and life cycles, such as that of a frog or butterfly. We have enjoyed the opportunity to host some chicks in the classroom, which involved handling, feeding and cleaning them out, demonstrating our responsibility and independence. We have been creating Story Maps in Literacy, using these to write our own versions of "The Ugly Duckling" and "Monkey Puzzle" and in Numeracy we have been working on division, 3D solids, shapes and data handling. We have also been taking part in Outdoor Learning; developing our basic first aid skills in PSHE and discussing the importance of personal space in RSE. It has been a busy but hugely rewarding term for all!



Complex, Therapeutic and Sensory Needs Department

Lime Class

Lime Class have continued to have lots of fun exploring our topic of "To Infinity and Beyond" this half term! We've been enjoying some space-themed ICT games and sensory music sessions.

We have also enjoyed being able to spend some more time outdoors and have developed our gross motor skills by exploring a range of new equipment. Some of us have been climbing whereas some of us have been making ourselves dizzy with lots and lots of spinning!

We have been sharing our weekly news via Earwig so please do look out for it and feel free to comment and share what you have been up to at home!

Have a lovely Easter everyone and we'll see you all back in school on Monday 25th April.



Cherry Class

Cherry class have had another great term. We have been enjoying our Space topic and have engaged with a sensory story and Tacpac.

Cherry enjoyed being able to get outside during the beautiful sunny spell we had! We have been working hard in hydro and rebound. 😊 We are looking forward to coming back in the summer term.



Poppy Class

This half term has been busy with our 'To Infinity and Beyond' theme and we have been enjoying different sensory experiences using foil, space rocks, slime and lights. In our sensory story we have visited Mars, Saturn and Neptune and our favourite parts were the cold ice packs and tinsel.

With the warmer weather we have also been able to visit the sensory garden and accessible swing which has been fun. We have been enjoying being on the trampoline for Rebound and having our hydrotherapy sessions each week.



Birch Class

Birch class has had a lovely half term. We really like learning things about the space and we have enjoyed lots of Easter activities too. Our favourite activities have been messy play, food exploration and Immersive drama; and our favourite day of the half term was World Book Day!



Beech Class

This term we have been studying the text "Meerkat Mail". We have learnt about the different countries that Sunny visited, written postcards and done our own travel reviews for our favourite place that he visited.

We have been lucky enough to get back out to the shops on a Monday, practising our communication skills and money exchange and buying something yummy to eat at the same time.

In Immersive theatre we have been enjoying the samba theme, the music and dreaming of faraway places that are warm and sunny.

In PE we took advantage of the nice weather we had for a couple of weeks (where has it gone now?!) and went out on the bikes around the large field.

When we come back after Easter we are looking forward to some nicer weather (fingers crossed) and lots of time outside getting out and about.

Have a lovely Easter break.



Apple Class

This term Apple Class have been working hard on improving our Waldon skills, focusing on moving objects from containers and placing them in other containers, in a frame or even on mug trees! We have enjoyed sharing books together, and we especially enjoyed "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" on World Book Day. And of course, we have enjoyed getting messy, while becoming more purposeful in our explorations.



Holly Class

Holly class have been enjoying our music lessons with Sean, where we have been going up in a hot air balloon and landing in different places around the world. We have also explored a range of instruments, focusing on fast and slow. Some of the pupils have been learning to ride bikes and scooters during PE. Now the weather is nicer we hope we can do this more in the summer term. Other pupils in Holly have been focusing on their life skills and making omelettes in a mug.

We hope you all have a great Easter break.



Key Stage 3

This term we have continued to enjoy our “Old is Beautiful”/“Ancient Egypt” topic. Pupils have enjoyed learning about different aspects of Ancient Egypt including Gods and Goddesses, pyramids and sphinx, river Nile, markets and traditional food. We have also supported good causes this half term including Red Nose Day where we wore red. Some classes have had their turn to access swimming this term at Bulmershe Leisure Centre and more classes will have the opportunity to visit next half term.

Our topic next term is “Beachcombers” and we’re looking forward to warmer, sunnier weather! We’d like to wish everyone a happy and safe Easter holiday!

Lydia Colios – Head of Key Stage 3

Aspen Class

This half term, our theme has been Ancient Egypt. We have focused on learning key facts and keywords relating to Egypt through different call and response stories: ‘It’s Miles to the Nile’ and ‘We’re Sailing down the Nile’. We have had opportunities to go to sand where we were digging up Egyptian models and later on, we created sentences describing what we had found. In cooking, we have been focusing on independence and toasting skills, where we have made toast, potato waffles and crumpets. We have had lots of fun in PE where we have had the opportunity to use the trampoline and have worked on our core strength and balance. During Attention Autism Bucket, we have incorporated our money skills to pay for a turn during stage 3 and included special events for days such as Red Nose Day.



Cedar Class

This half term Cedar class have been learning about Ancient Egypt through a range of exciting activities.

We explored Egypt through a sensory story as we followed a journey down to the river Nile. We then got on a riverboat and read the story: ‘Sailing down the Nile’ stopping at different scenes such as an Egyptian market, a farm and the pyramids. We labelled pictures and wrote sentences to capture what we could see.

We all engaged in our Egyptian themed yoga sessions, which helped us to remember the new concepts. We enjoyed creating Egyptian themed art such as scarab beetles and the pharaoh’s jewellery.

In our cooking sessions, we practised following instructions to make healthy snacks such as an Egyptian salad, vegetable muffins and banana and oat muffins. We have enjoyed our class picnics tasting the result of our work.

In Maths, we have been learning about the months and seasons of the year. We learned to read the analogue clock and matched the times to the routine of our day.

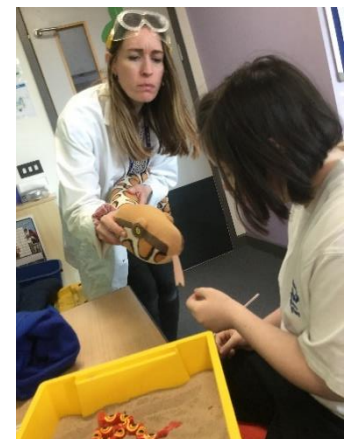


Maple Class

Maple class have been working on their independence skills around making food and drink, and for some, it has also been an opportunity to try new tastes and textures! They have experienced making healthy snacks, which included Salata Baladi, an Egyptian salad.

In Drama with Carla, the class did an 'archaeological dig' in sand, during one of their lessons, as part of their learning about Ancient Egypt.

In Science, the class have been exploring magnets and what they attract and repel. We have now completed a term of swimming at Bulmershe, and all students have progressed well. In maths, the class were learning about terms around the topic of measures – longer, longest, shorter, shortest, taller and tallest etc.





Elm Class

It's been another busy half term in Elm Class!

In PSHE, we have been focusing on First Aid and what to do in an emergency. Everyone has really enjoyed learning about DR ABC, and practising moving someone into the recovery position.

We have been writing lists and using bullet points in Literacy, as well as learning all about Tutankhamen and his tomb! We also dressed up for World Book Day!

In Science, we have been learning about forces and enjoyed experiments that involved making boats and zip wires! In Art, we have been enjoying Egyptian themed activity stations and in Drama, we have been focusing on storytelling. We continue to enjoy our lessons in the secondary kitchen and celebrated Red Nose Day by making delicious jam tarts.

We have been making lots of progress in our swimming lessons each week! In PE, we have been trampolining and playing Boccia. Some of our class were invited to take part in a Boccia tournament at a local school. The Elm team were amazing and came 4th! Well done Elm!

We are really looking forward to a fantastic summer term! Our new topic will be Beachcombers!



Chestnut Class

This term we have asked the pupils to dictate to us what they would like to include in the newsletter under various headings:

Maths

- 'I have found out angles and whether they are 90 degrees or less' - Finn
- 'I made an icosagon! A 20 sided shape' – Billy
- 'We counted the sides and we found out if angles were acute and obtuse' – Anya

Literacy – Nouns and Verbs

- 'We coloured the nouns green and the verbs red' – Kayla
- 'A noun is a name' – Cody
- 'A verb is a doing word' – Finn

Literacy and Topic (Ancient Egypt)

- 'We changed a story and made our own version' – Billy
- 'We wrote sentences about the God of the Sun. His name is Ra' – Kayla

RSE (Consent)

- 'We have been watching a video about not saying where you live' – Leo
- 'The girls have been learning about puberty and periods' – Sophia
- 'We learnt about sex and relationships' – Kayla
- 'Consent. That means you say yes or no' – Billy



PSHE (First Aid)

'We are learning about DR ABC' – Sofia

'On the first lesson we did what's inside of a first aid box' – Billy

P.E. with Danny

'We did handball' – Cody

'I was walking around the field' – Melek

Art with Angie

'We did some printing, making our own patterns' – Cody

'We drew some Egyptian Gods' – Billy

Science with Julie

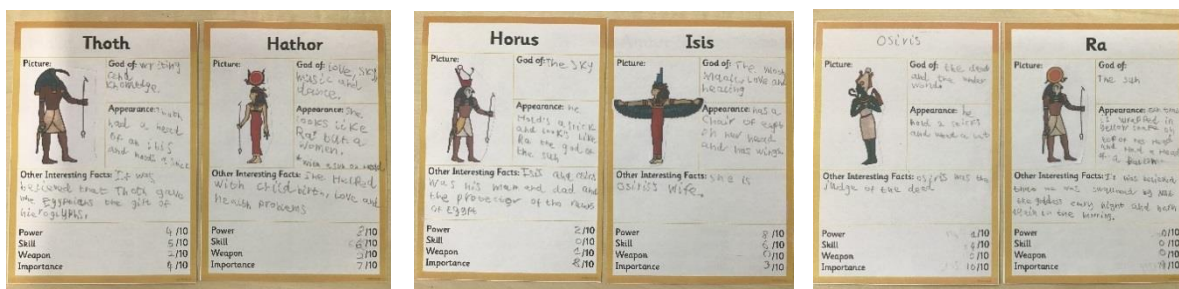
'We did a helicopter! Weeee!' – Billy

'We were learning about air resistance!' - Finn



Sycamore Class

In Sycamore Class we have been finding out lots about the Ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses. We have been making our own version of the popular game 'Top Trumps'.



We have really enjoyed our trips to Camp Mohawk this term. We have made journey sticks. . .



. . and enjoyed an Easter egg hunt.



Our other favourite activities are playing in the soft play room in the ball pit and going on the swings outside



Key Stage 4

Swan Class

This term as we have been able to get out and about more, we have taken the opportunity to take the students travel training. This has been in small groups and also as a class trip to a work experience day in the Oracle in Reading followed by lunch at Munchies. Students found out about different jobs in the Oracle, and were shown around the back areas of the Oracle including car parks and the control room. They then went on to order their own lunches, working to a set budget as well as enjoying the experience of eating out together.



In lifetime leisure, we have taken the opportunity to try a variety of new sports, this included table tennis, archery and also bowling in Bracknell.



On our first day of term we celebrated Shrove Tuesday by cooking, eating and then racing with pancakes!



On Mondays during cooking and life skills, students have been planning two course lunches then shopping for ingredients in the local community. Students then work in teams to cook the complete meal, lay the table, serve the lunches and then they enjoy eating together. The meals they have enjoyed have been chicken curry and rice; sausage and mash with carrots and broccoli and pasta bake with homemade garlic bread, followed by a variety of desserts including crumbles, homemade rice pudding and blueberry muffins. These have been very popular sessions so will be continuing next term building upon current skills.



Kite Class

On the first week back of term, students enjoyed making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, including trying to toss them and catch them! On Wednesday mornings Kite have been making a variety of two course lunches, which has included setting the table, serving and then sitting down to eat together.



We had a surprise visit from a PAT dog, students enjoyed meeting him and teaching him new tricks.



Kite class have been working on skills using the washing machine and hanging clothes to dry. They have located and read the care labels for washing and to sort the clothes by size.



Students have really enjoyed travel and town training; using the bus to get to Reading and practising road safety skills. They have developed independence in ordering in a café, keeping to a budget and locating other places in town such as shops that have battery recycling points. Students have also been shopping using lists, locating items by using shop signs and practising money skills when paying for their shopping.

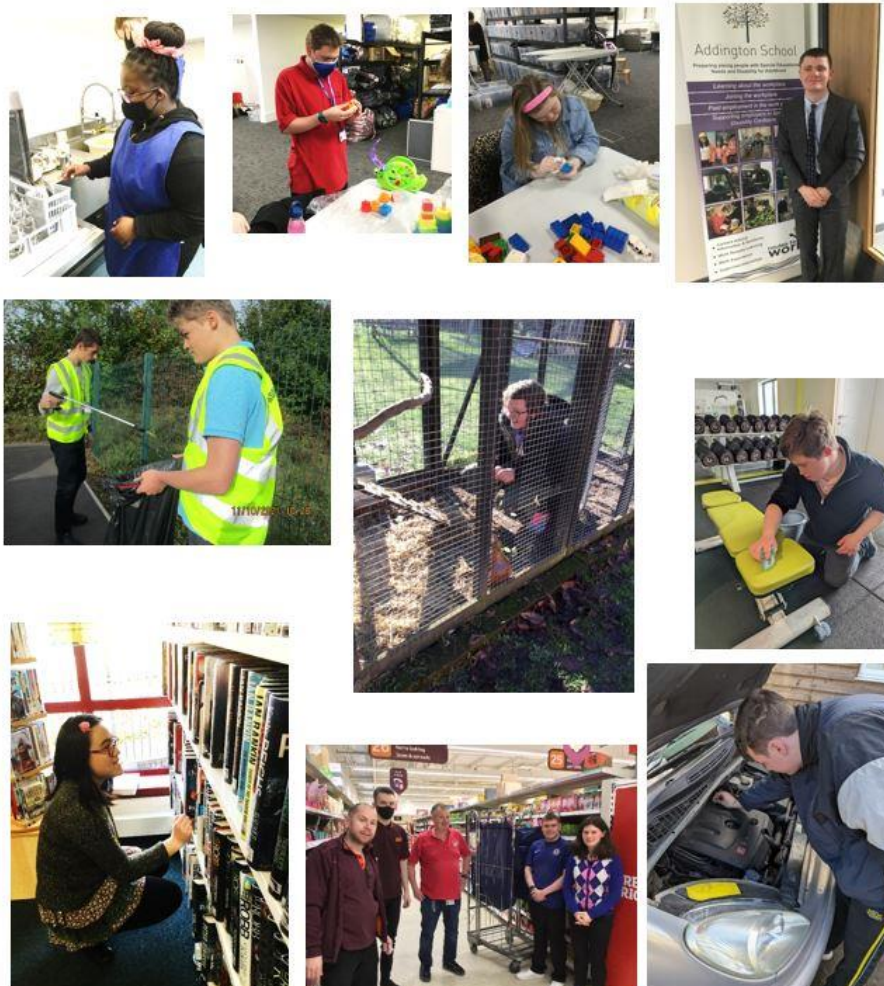


Sixth Form News

Independent Skills - The students in 6th Form have been busy working on their independent skills. They have been folding laundry, putting on wash loads, hanging clothes up to dry and ironing.



Work Experience - Students have been completing a variety of work placements, including the Museum of English Rural Life, Waitrose, The Cowshed and many more! The students have worked hard on the skills and qualities they bring to the work place. We have had lots of positive feedback!



Out and About - We have completed a lot of activities out and about for our life long leisure curriculum. We have been travel training, bowling, shopping and a lot of local exploration!





The Creative Arts Page

It has been a great half term in the Creative Arts department with lots of fun and engaging learning taking place in lessons. We would also like to welcome Jack to the Creative Arts team; he has joined as our new Creative Arts Teaching Assistant.

Music Lessons

Early Years – This half term, the students have been going to a party. They have developed their rhythm and turn taking skills by 'knocking at the door' using woodblocks and taken part in party games like 'Pass the Parcel', 'Musical Statues', 'Charades' and 'Sleeping Lions'. These activities have given opportunities to explore new instruments, link movement and music together through starting and stopping and developing confidence to lead activities for others to copy.

Sensory and Complex Needs have continued on their hot air balloon ride around the world. They have been developing awareness of musical structure and rhythm through the 'Traffic Jam Song' before going to a sensory disco. They have also explored making and listening to ocean sounds with rain sticks and ocean drums under the sea.

KS2 and 3 – This half term, the students have continued exploring dances from around the world. Some have been learning clave rhythms and composing their own rhythms through salsa music, changing tempo with 'Hava Nagila' and reading rhythms and playing a Habanera bass line with the 'Tango'. They have been focussing on singing 'I Can't Dance' by Genesis and 'Dance Monkey' by Tones and I.

The 6th Form music community group have continued composing their repertoire and have made great progress with developing their leadership skills and role within the group. They are hoping to start lead workshops in school next half term.



Art

Key Stage 3 have continued exploring print this half term. This half term we have experimented with mono printing, stencilling, rubbings and press printing. We have been combining different techniques and thinking about what work best for our ideas. I have been so pleased with how well all the students in Key Stage 3 have experimented with this topic this term and we have now got some very full sketchbooks!



Key Stage 4 Swan class and 6th Form Eagle Class have been learning how to use perspective and one point vanishing points in their drawings. We have been working with paint and having some fun with colour, looking at different landscapes and referencing the work of American artist Grant Haffner.



Kite Class have been working both collaboratively and individually to create pieces of art relating to colour. We have looked at the work of Piet Mondrian and his cubist primary colour paintings and we are now investigating Robert Delaunay's curves and use of secondary colours.



6th Form Art community group's sculpture is now on show in reception. The group made fish from used plastic bottles and created a plastic ridden seascape to raise awareness of the huge amounts of plastic that end up in the sea each year.



Immersive Theatre

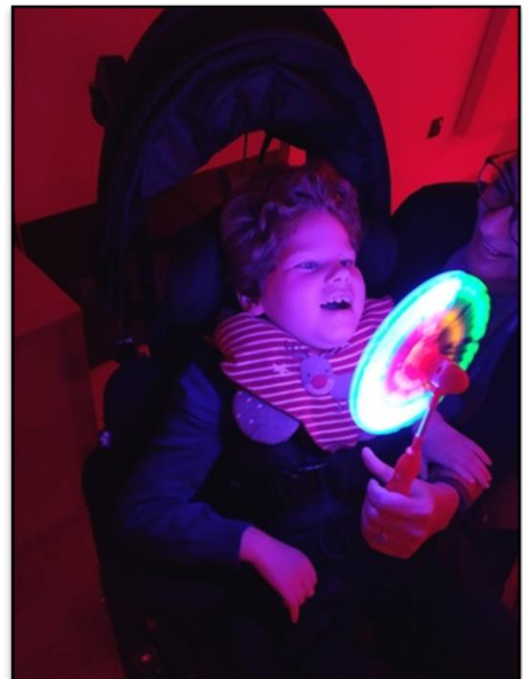
This half term, students have been members of the public at the Rio De Janeiro Carnival. They are judging the dance competition and voting who will be the carnival's king or queen. They explore playing samba music, props which spin around and other props which float and rustle in the breeze. After making their choice using coloured paddles for the winner of the dance competition, they celebrate on the beach with a tropical drink.

Upcoming Events

We are very pleased to announce we are planning to have a jam-packed full schedule of events this coming summer term. Here are the key dates for your diaries.

PROMS Week – Monday 27th June – Friday 1st July

We are so excited to be hosting our PROMS week again. This is a highlight of the year for our department and school. PROMS weeks is a week dedicated to celebrating the arts. Our students have an opportunity to perform music as part of their class and also listening as part of an audience to other Addington performances and visiting schools. Students who have peri lessons have an opportunity to share what they have been learning as well as other special performances. At the end of the week, we host our very own Addington's Got Talent Final. More details to follow in the next term.





Special Superstar Concert – Thursday 16th June – 7pm

We are delighted to also see the return of 'Special Superstar'. This is a singing concert hosted at Addington School with choirs from other SEN schools from around Berkshire. The repertoire choices are made by the nominated 'superstars' who are given the chance to develop their performance skills singing a solo on the stage. Our superstars are supported by the choir of

students who have rehearsed in their schools. They all meet on the concert day to rehearse and participate in social games to develop social and communication skills and make new friends. It is a fantastic project and we are looking forward to starting rehearsals next half term.



FestForAll – Saturday 16th July

This is a music festival for the whole family to enjoy. Alongside the packed programme of live music there is also a BBQ and bar, hands on arts and craft activities and games for everyone to try out, plus a bouncy castle! Bring your picnic and deckchairs and enjoy a fantastic family event! Information about tickets will come out next half term.



Happy Easter everyone!

The Creative Arts Team



News from the Association

Email: AddingtonAssociation@gmail.com

Dear Parents and Carers

I thought I'd use this Newsletter to update you on our recent AGM and to summarise the Trustee's report.

2021 was once again heavily impacted by Covid and the limitations that brought to opportunities to fundraise in a 'traditional' way. However, we have learnt from the experiences of 2020 and were more readily able to deal with some of the impacts.

There were a couple of new activities - we held our first virtual quiz night in May, the primary aim being to give our families an opportunity to have a little fun! It's always lovely to see the children saying hi to their friends via Zoom. There was a very special 'Addington round' which the children starred in.

In keeping with our aim of allowing people to support the Association (whilst being aware of everyone's time constraints), we launched the School Association lottery in May. The Association has received £1,698.30 from the lottery so far. This initiative, together with the 2 internet shopping sites (AmazonSmile and EasyFundraising) now provide the Association with a regular monthly/quarterly income stream.

In July, some of our 6th Formers ran a flower stall in Woodley Precinct in association with Eliza Jane flowers. All profits on the day were shared between the Addington School Association and the Ridgeline Trust. In total, the team raised an amazing £205.78 for the Association!

In October the official opening of the new Early Years sensory playground took place. The Association had made the sensory playground the focus of its fundraising efforts for the last couple of years and were delighted to be able to donate £32,000 (approx. 50% of the funding) to the development. It was lovely to see the children enjoying the purpose-built environment. Lots of happy faces and fun being had! It was also brilliant to see the photos on the Wokingham Borough Council Facebook page.

Moving into December we held our annual Christmas Hamper Raffle and also the Christmas Fayre, these events raising £1,021 and £1,151 respectively. Whilst the Fayre was a little smaller than in previous years (due to some Covid restrictions) it was well attended, and visitors appreciated the opportunity to spend some time doing a little early Christmas shopping! Unfortunately, the ever-popular Carol Concert was cancelled at short notice given the concerns about the spread of Covid at that time. It was a huge disappointment, but the decision was taken with the best intentions to try and ensure everyone could enjoy the Christmas holiday.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Addington School's opening. It would be nice to be able to help the school celebrate this occasion and this subject will feature in our meetings moving forward. We hope to be able to run a number of events this year with Covid restrictions now being lifted. More info to follow!

Which only leaves me to wish you all a very well-deserved Easter break. Relax, enjoy and stay safe.

Best wishes

Dawn Adams & all at the Addington School Association

ADDINGTON SCHOOL TERM DATES 2021 - 2022



AUTUMN TERM 2021

Inset Days – (closed to pupils)	Wednesday 1 September & Thursday 2 September 2021
Term Starts	Friday 3 September 2021
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 25 October to Friday 29 October inclusive
Inset Day (closed to pupils)	Monday 1 November 2021
Term Restarts	Tuesday 2 November 2021
Term Ends	Friday 17 December 2021

SPRING TERM 2022

Term Starts	Tuesday 4 January 2022
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 21 February to Friday 25 February 2022 inclusive
Inset Day – (closed to pupils)	Monday 28 February 2022
Term Restarts	Tuesday 1 March 2022
Term Ends	Friday 8 April 2022

SUMMER TERM 2022

Term Starts	Monday 25 April 2022
Inset Day – (closed to pupils)	Friday 27 May
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June 2022 inclusive
Term Restarts	Monday 6 June 2022
Term Ends	Wednesday 20 July 2022

Inset Days – School closed to pupils

Wednesday 1 September 2021
 Thursday 2 September 2021
 Monday 1 November 2021
 Monday 28 February 2022
 Friday 27 May 2022