



ADDINGTON NEWSLETTER



October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

It only seems like yesterday we were welcoming all the new students on their first day here in September, yet here we are with the first half term over. It has been incredibly busy as you will see from all the fantastic experiences, activities and learning opportunities that are detailed in the following pages.

Our new pupils have settled in well from September and we are very busy getting to know the names of them all!

As you know, David and Lynda are Interim Co-Head Teachers this year in order to support capacity with some exciting new projects for the school. One of these is the opening of our new Early Years Centre at Farley Hill after half term. David has given more detail in the newsletter and we are all very excited to welcome the Centre's first pupils into their new fantastic facility after nearly 15 months of planning. It is an excellent smaller provision from which our younger pupils will be prepared for the curriculum when they come to the main site later.

My thanks go to our Assistant Head teacher, Ellie Webb and our Premises Manager, Mark Stevens, who have both worked tirelessly to ensure the centre opens on time.

Two important dates for your diary: Saturday 2nd December is the Christmas Fayre run by our Parents' Association and offers opportunities for families to attend a safe Christmas event together and Monday 11th December at 7 pm for our Family Carol Concert with Woodley Concert Band. For our new families, this is a lovely relaxed, fun (short!) event that celebrates Christmas at Addington. I hope to see many of you there, as well as all our parents who return to this event each year.

In the meantime, we hope everyone has a good half term holiday and we look forward to welcoming all our pupils back on Tuesday 31st October.

Yours faithfully

Sara Attra
Interim Executive Head teacher

David

Lynda

David Maycock and Lynda Wood
Interim Co-Head Teachers



News from the Family Support Team

So, we come to the end of our first half term. Where has the time gone?

This term we have hosted an Early Years Curriculum coffee morning and a sleep course which was run by ASD Family Help.



This half term has been a busy one. We have supported families with a wide range of issues: DLA and PIP applications; short breaks referrals; bus passes; transport applications; disabled badges; hospital, dentist and paediatrician appointments; professionals' meetings (such as "Child in Need", "Looked after Child" and "team around the family") and advertising for personal assistants.

I would like to welcome Joey Proudley who is going to be the new Family Support Worker based at Farley Hill Early Years Centre.

On Saturday 30th September many of our families enjoyed the Starr Circus performances. We were very fortunate to have the tickets donated to us.

Here are some activities which may be of interest:

- There is a multisport event being held at Cantley Park for children with physical disabilities on Friday 27th October 09.30 – 16.00

Tickets must be booked via Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/festival-of-inclusivity-at-cantley-park-tickets->

- Parenting Special Children have organised a support group for dads and male carers of children and young people with special needs. They meet on the first Monday of the month from 7.30pm – 9.30pm

<https://www.parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/courses/dads-and-male-carers-support-group/>

- Sendiass Wokingham are running drop-in sessions every fortnight at Wokingham Youth Centre, 35 Reading Road, Wokingham RG41 1EG from 10.30 am – 12.30pm. Dates this term: Friday 3rd November, Monday 13th November and Friday 1st December.

Wishing you a good half term.

Ellie & Joey

Our Senior Leadership Team



Sara Attra
Interim Executive
Head teacher



Lynda Wood
Interim Co-Head
teacher



David Maycock
Interim Co-Head
teacher



Emer Moore
Interim Deputy
Head



Eirfron Watkinson
Assistant Head
teacher



Kimberley Legg
Associate
Assistant Head



Rhona Millar
Associate
Assistant Head



Lydia Colios
Associate
Assistant Head



Sue Tod
School Business
Manager

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.

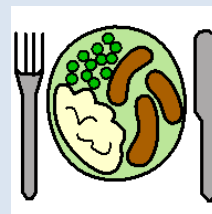
As a reminder:

Primary lunch is £2.53

Secondary lunch is £2.63

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

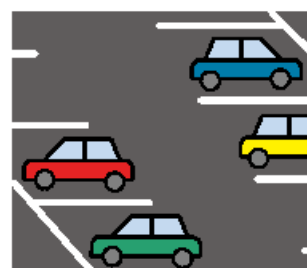
If you have any problems, please contact Admin on office@addington.wokingham.sch.uk.



CAR PARKING REMINDER

Please see our below our quick guide to parking at the Addington Main Site in Woodley.

Despite all of the measures that the site team and I have put in place to ensure the smooth and safe operation of our car park it continues to be



extremely busy at drop off and pick up times. It can become really difficult when the rules on the quick guide are not followed.

If you have a parking permit that allows you to enter our car park, please make sure you follow all directions from the school team and bear with us as the team manage the car park. During busy periods you may be asked to circle the car park a number of times before being able to park.

If you do not have a parking permit please do not enter our main car park for any reason, during drop off and pick up times. Please park offsite and walk in with your child. If you have a specific situation please discuss with a senior leader, do not just turn up as the site team will ask you to leave site.

The governing body are fully aware of the challenges we are facing with our car park and support us in challenging anyone who should not be driving into our car park, or anyone who is not following the rules below.

Please see detailed advice on the use of our car park on this page of our website -

<https://www.addington.wokingham.sch.uk/parents>

Addington School Car Park (Drop Off and Pick Up) – Quick Guide

	All parents should park in Bulmershe Leisure Centre Car Park, unless they have a parking permit
	Parents without a Parking Permit must not drive onto the school site
	Parents with a Permit must use the one-way system marked out and only park in marked parent or disabled spaces* <i>*The two disabled bays near the school reception are for priority wheelchair users and larger vehicles with tail lifts.</i>
	All pedestrians MUST use the Zebra Crossings and footpaths. Do Not cut across the car park
	Do Not drop off pupils until you are in a car park space
	Take up a parking bay for the minimal amount of time possible, so that other parents can use the bay
	When using the car park you MUST follow the one-way system and instructions given by staff
	We ask everyone to be respectful to each other
We reserve the right to withdraw access to our car park as a result of disrespectful conduct	



We are really excited to announce that after months of hard work, planning and building, the first phase of our new Early Years Centre located in Farley Hill, will open to pupils on Tuesday 31st October 2023. Phase two building work will continue until around Easter 2024.

The old Farley Hill Primary school has undergone a major renovation project in a relatively short period of time to create phase one of the purpose built centre for our youngest pupils. On the 31st October we will be opening two classes, two more will open in September 2024, with our centre reaching full capacity in September 2025 with five classes.

This is a project being delivered by Wokingham Borough Council to support with the ever increasing demand for special school places over the next 3 years. Addington have worked closely with Wokingham, their architects and the builders to ensure that this provision meets the needs of our youngest pupils.

Following handover from the builders on the 16th October our staff teams have been working hard to ensure the building is ready for pupils to arrive.

Ellie Webb (Assistant Head) is the Leader in charge of Addington Early Years Centre.

We cannot wait to invite the parents and pupils onto the site for the welcome sessions on Tuesday 31st October. Parents with pupils starting at the centre should already have received personalised information regarding your childs' start at the centre.

Please be aware that parking is limited so bear with the site team on arrival and they will direct you where to park safely.

Please see some photos of the new building below

David Maycock (Acting Co-Head teacher) and Ellie Webb (Assistant Head)



Reception



Classroom



Classroom



Playground



Library

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 do this via the Arbor app or email:
office@addington.wokingham.sch.uk

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.**

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 Promise Inclusion

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 Annah on 07551 159073 for more information.



Headteacher's Award Winners



Congratulations to the following students:

Early Years - Richie Townsend-Borecki and Theo Sharp

KS2 - Alfie Strong and Jessica Skegg

KS3 - Elm Class

KS4 - Eden Chafer and Joseph Kenneh

Access - Alfie Rackley and Zarrar Solat



SPORTS PAGE



Duke of Edinburgh 2022-2023 Presentation Afternoon



On Monday 2nd October, Bronze and Silver students delivered their presentations to an audience of their classmates, teachers, parents and invited guests. It is the culmination of their year's work and a chance to share their amazing achievements and receive their awards. Well done Duke of Edinburgh students!



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2023-2024



The 2023/2024 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award cohort have been getting used to working with each other. We have played team building games, started to become familiar with maps by orienteering and pitched our first tent.



Dates for Bronze expeditions:
Practice Expedition
Thursday 6th – Friday 7th June 2023
Qualifying Expedition
Thursday 27th – Friday 28th June 2023



Fitness with Clare

This half-term, Clare, our brilliant fitness coach has been delivering classes to some KS4 students. She has been improving their cardio fitness and strength and showing the students how they can improve their fitness outside school.



After School Sports Club Cricket

We are very lucky this half term as we have a cricket coach from Berkshire Cricket to deliver cricket skills sessions to our after school sports club students. We have been practicing our throwing catching and batting skills in a series of different exciting games.



If you think your child may enjoy cricket, please contact:

Chris Baker
Disability Development Officer
Mobile: 07883 787499
Email: chris.baker@berkshirecricketfoundation.org
Web: www.berkshirecricketfoundation.org

House cup winners 2022-2023

At the assembly at the end of last school year, the house captains gathered for the awarding of the House Cup for the house which had amassed the greatest amount of points throughout the school year. The points were as follows:

1768 → 4th
1884 → 3rd
1923 → 2nd
1949 → 1st



Lunchtime Primary Football Club

This term we have started a lunchtime football club for KS2. This gives a chance for some younger pupils to have a game of football away from the hustle and bustle of the secondary football pitch.



Sportsperson of the year 2022-2023

The Addington Sportsperson of the year for 2022-2023 was awarded at the end of year assembly. The winner was Luka for representing Addington and Berkshire in the South of England Cross Country Championships, his wide ranging sporting activities and his massive improvement in the Addington Football Team.



Most improved Sportsperson 2022-2023

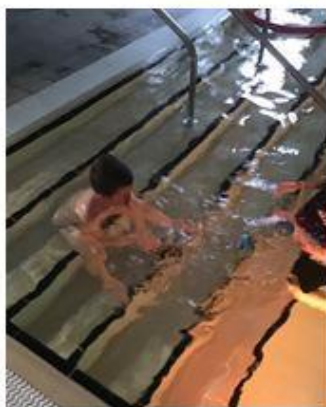


The most improved sportsperson was given to Sofia for her leadership in Duke of Edinburgh and for her enthusiasm in PE lessons.

Early Years

Daisy Class

Our Brilliant Bodies! It has been lovely to welcome new children to Daisy class. It already feels like they have always been a part of our class. This term we have been celebrating our brilliant bodies through movement, song, music, stories and many different activities. There has been lots of physical movement in the playground, soft play, Rebound and in the hydrotherapy pool! Our hands have been busy exploring all sorts of textures and materials in messy creative activities, sensory stories and mark making. In Waldon maths, the children have worked on hand-eye co-ordination with placing, stacking and sorting activities. Through music and our lovely Soundabout music and movement sessions, the children have moved their whole bodies in response to action songs and rhymes, as well as playing different percussion instruments and exploring all the noises and sounds our voices can make. What a fabulous term!



Bluebell Class

We have completed our first term, we can't believe how fast it went! The children settled into school life brilliantly and are transitioning around school brilliantly. Our topic for this term has been 'Brilliant Bodies'. In Communication, Language and Literacy we have been looking at 'From Head to Toe' by Eric Carle. The children have really enjoyed joining in with the actions from the story. In cooking, we have been practising our chopping skills by cutting up fruits and vegetables to make fruit and pizza faces. In Maths we have enjoyed exploring number and shape, space and measure through Bucket! The children have really enjoyed choosing what songs to listen to at the end of our Maths lesson. The children have been working really hard on their placing skills in Waldon. We have really enjoyed our swimming lessons and are loving that we go every Tuesday. The children continue to enjoy Music and Dance here in Bluebell so they were very happy to see Sean for his amazing Music lessons again! We are all so proud of how the children have settled into school and are very excited for next term. We have lots of birthdays to celebrate in Bluebell class, as well as... CHRISTMAS!!



Daffodil Class

Our Topic this term has been 'Brilliant Bodies' where we have been exploring the different ways we can use and move our bodies, along with developing our self-help and independence skills. The books we have been reading are 'From Head to Toe' and 'Happy to be me' which have been a great way to develop our listening skills and have lots of opportunities to join in and practice the different movements we can make!

To further support our learning about our bodies, Daffodil Class enjoyed a visit to a local park to explore a different playground and environment. The park had many different opportunities to develop our physical skills and we look forward to visiting the park again soon!

Daffodil Class have been engaging well with Food Play sessions each week which have been Italian themed this half term. We started the term with savoury items, such as spaghetti, garlic bread and pizza which helped us to also practice our use of cutlery when cutting food. More recently, we have been exploring different flavoured ice creams, cones along with sauces and sprinkles!



Primrose Class

This Autumn Term in Primrose class we have been learning about 'Brilliant Bodies'! Our focus text has been 'From Head to Toe' which we have loved listening to and really enjoyed the various sound buttons and animal sounds to go along with it. We have been listening to lots of different nursery rhymes and songs linked with body parts and have enjoyed singing and dancing along.



We have also loved exploring a variety of activities with maths, focussing on number, Waldon, weight and measurement.



We have been working on our Phase 1 Phonics with the various different strands such as Environmental Sounds and Instrumental Sounds. We love our noisy toys and matching animal sounds to the animal.

Primrose class have loved their swimming sessions and really look forward to these each week. We love doing Treasure Hunts in the pool, becoming rockets and learning to kick off from the side of the pool.



In Attention Autism, we are developing our understanding and confidence with Stage 3 turn taking and really enjoy watching each other and waiting patiently for our own turn.

We have had a great first half term back at school and look forward to lots more learning after half term!

Sunflower Class

This term we have enjoyed settling back into school and welcoming some new pupils into Sunflower Class. Everyone has made brilliant progress with transitioning to different learning spaces around school, especially the swimming pool which is a firm favourite. The pupils have been really enjoying their swimming lessons and are becoming more confident in the water, starting to swim more independently with their floatation aids. Our topic this term is 'Brilliant Bodies' and we have enjoyed learning about different parts of the body, looking at our faces in mirrors, creating faces using food in cooking and painting face pictures. We've also enjoyed learning how to brush our teeth, using toothbrushes with support, experimenting with toothpaste, and tolerating having a toothbrush in our mouths



Tulip Class

This half term in Tulip class we have been learning about our 'Brilliant Bodies'. We have enjoyed listening to our stories 'Happy to be me' and 'From head to toe' and have been labelling different body parts. In Understanding the World we listened to the 'bath song' and using dolls and towels we washed different parts of our babies' bodies.



We have also been learning about shapes in Maths and have used different shape puzzles and sorters to learn about properties of shapes.



In cooking we have been learning to mix icing sugar and water to create a paste and really enjoyed icing biscuits and cakes. The best part though has been eating the biscuits and cakes!



We have also enjoyed our yoga, Music, sand and library sessions.

We have had a busy term full of lots of learning and look forward to seeing you all next half term

Lily Class

We have had a fantastic start to the year in Lily class and we have all settled well into our new classroom and routine. Pupils have enjoyed making new friends and some lovely new friendships have been established.

Our topic this term is 'Brilliant Bodies' and we have engaged in a range of fun activities to support our learning within this topic. In literacy, we have enjoyed reading the story 'Happy to be me'. We have been using our bodies to complete different activities and using colourful semantics to make comments about what our friends are doing. We have also been working really hard with our phonics. In maths we have been practising counting to 20 and beyond through fun, practical activities and we have also enjoyed a range of activities to support our understanding of shape, time and length.

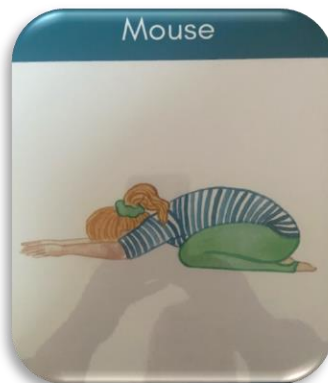
This term, we have enjoyed a special drama lesson with Carla each week. We have had lots of fun and laughter in these sessions. We have also started cooking sessions in the Primary Kitchen. We have practised cutting different fruits and vegetables to make faces! It has been a great first term in Lily class.



Brilliant Bodies in Yoga with Rainbow Claire



Across the Early Years classes, **Yoga** has had a fun and an Autumnal ☐ animal focus to it. This term we have been moving our bodies in lots of different poses (asanas) linked to our topic. We have enjoyed; owl, mouse and hedgehog pose.



Our breathing balls (posh name; Hoberman sphere) have really helped to focus our breath; breathing in through the nose as we expand the ball and then closing the ball while breathing out through the mouth.

The make-up brushes and hand cream have really been enjoyed as part of step 6, relaxation and meditation of our Mini Me Yoga structure to our lessons. The children have had the opportunity to find Calm, Space and Joy during their yoga time with me this first half term.



Key Stage 2 Newsletter

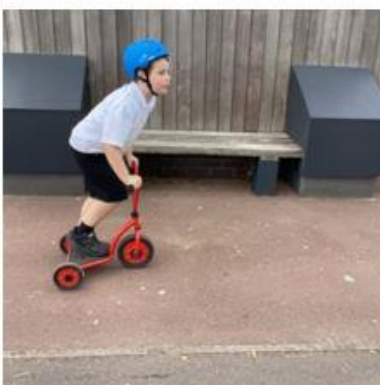
Oak Class

Oak Class have settled brilliantly to all of the new changes at the start of term and are bonding well with each other and communicating well with new staff. We are really proud of how they are adjusting to the new routines and forming new friendships. This term's topic has been hugely popular as we have been learning about 'Toys Old and New' and using this theme as a focus for lots of our other learning. We particularly loved the stories 'Lost in the Toy Museum' and we were able to act out the hide and seek element of the story. We also enjoyed 'Stanley's Stick' and created our own stick models from our imagination. Yvonne has been cooking with us and this term we focussed on trying different fruits and using cutting, peeling and mixing skills to make fruit faces, fruit kebabs and smoothies. Jo has been helping us make our own toys and we have made a cup and ball games, wiggly caterpillars, sock and hand puppets and also junk model robots. We have also been lucky enough to have had our first offsite visit to Thames Valley Adventure Playground where we had a huge amount of fun! At school we have also been able to explore our outdoor learning garden where we had such fun making and hunting for signs of autumn and also a Halloween hunt!



Willow Class

We have been having lots of fun learning and playing with our new friends in Willow Class. Our topic this term has been "Toys – Old and New" and we have been enjoying exploring all different types of toys. In Literacy, we found out about a "Naughty Bus" who drove through beans and chips and made his passengers cross. We even had a go at making our own mischief in messy play! We enjoyed learning about Kipper and his Toy Box where the children learned lots of new signs and acted out the sensory story. Our most recent book taught us all about the cheeky toys in the museum that wake up at night time and play hide and seek! We had some Addington toys that liked to do the same so we had lots of fun finding them with "hotter" and "colder" clues. With the arrival of autumn, the children have been investigating all the changes they have seen and collected their own selection of natural things that had fallen from trees. We love all the leaf kicking we can do at autumn time! We have been learning about the time in maths through playing games like "What's the time Mr Wolf" and we have been enjoying 2D shapes games with Charlotte on Friday's. Our first trip to Taplow was an absolute joy! The children were in their element and didn't stop climbing, running and playing all day! We can't wait to have more fun next half term when our topic is "Alpine Adventure".



Pine Class

Pine class have had a fantastic start to the year! All the children have settled into their new class and environment very well and have already built lovely relationships with the adults and their friends. Our Topic this term, was called 'Toys Old and New', the children have enjoyed learning about toys from the past whilst experiencing the functions of new toys. In Literacy, we have focused on the stories 'Stanley Stick' and 'Kipper's Toy Box'; the children enjoyed sequencing these stories in a sensory way. Pine class were very excited when their favourite toys came to school from home, they enjoyed showing them off during 'Show and Tell'. In Maths, we focused on our Number skills using numicon and lots of rhyming songs! We also practised time - focusing on fast and slow, the children enjoyed experiencing this through the story 'Tortoise and the Hare'. This term, we have also focused on our independence and hygiene skills for example; putting our own belongings away, washing hands, cleaning teeth, using communication boards to request snack and making sandwiches in cooking, using different cutlery independently! We have really enjoyed Music with Martin this term too. We have been very fortunate this term to have regular Swimming slots and Outdoor Learning as well as a trip to Taplow! Well done Pine class for a brilliant half term!



Rowan class

Welcome to the first newsletter of the term from Rowan class. We have had a great term, and all the children have settled in together as a new class really well. Our topic this term has been 'Toys Old and New' and the children have enjoyed learning about toys from the past, and what they were made of compared to today. They were excellent at sorting toys into their different properties, and making decisions about their likes and dislikes, as another way of organising them. We also looked at a timeline and worked out how long ago some of the toys were made and played with. Our books have been 'Lost in the toy museum' and 'Stanley's stick'. We have used the story to write about parts of the story and talked about describing the characters as well. In maths we have looked at different amounts and used numicon and other resources to visualise what the different amounts actually meant. We have also worked very hard on learning to tell the time with the children taking turns to teach the rest of the class. The children have loved their lessons in the Science block and finding out information about Space and the different planets. Singing songs about the planets before home time as well, has helped them to remember them. They have been very creative in Art, creating the most amazing Robots. They went through the whole process of designing through to creation and blew us away with how talented they all are. We have thoroughly enjoyed our first trip to Taplow and all of the children have been absolute stars. Well done Rowan class keep up the good work.



Complex and Sensory Needs Department

Apple Class

We all settled really well in Apple Class and we are continuing to learn.

We are enjoying our "Hello" morning routine and we started to learn about "People who help us" during Sensory story session and "about us" during Sensology and Tac Pac sessions.

We have been making the most of being outside enjoying our courtyard and playground. The highlight of the term is anything with music: Immersive Drama, Music session and Soundabout activities.

Well done to our students!



Cherry Class

We have had a good start to the new school year in Cherry. We have been enjoying our topic - 'Me and My Community'. We have been creating a sensory story all about ourselves and the things that make us amazing. We have all been enjoying this story and seeing all the different things that make Cherry pupils great. We have been working on creating a puzzle of all the class and the things that we like about ourselves. It has been lovely to see and hear all the nice things the pupils have chosen. It has been a great chance for our pupils to express themselves and it has been lovely to hear all the positive things they think about themselves and each other. We have been doing Sound Art this term and have enjoyed listening to the Sound Collector poem. We have started to hunt around the school to create our own poems about the different sounds we can hear around here. Cherry have been fantastic with the hydrotherapy and physio sessions this term and have been developing and fine tuning all their fantastic physical skills. We have loved Immersive Drama - Welcome to the Circus!

Have a fantastic half term.



Poppy Class

We have had a great first half term back and have enjoyed being back into our class routine with hydro, rebound and learning. Our theme this term is 'Me and My Community' and we have been learning about ourselves and our friends with lots of sensory activities and friendship games. We played a game called fruit bowl which was very funny and involved swapping places with our friends and altogether we moved around a friendship circle (a big piece of material) we could feel when our friends pulled and moved the material and we worked together to keep it moving. We have also been outside to make the most of the warmer weather and played on the swing and other games in the sensory garden.

Have a lovely half term!





Access Department

Welcome back to a new school year! Our theme this term is Magic and Mystery. Pupils have been developing independence to follow their individual sensory diets and therapeutic support plans. We have been engaging in favoured wellbeing activities through the theme of Magic and Mystery so some students have enjoyed activities such as Magical Yoga, Macbeth's resonance board chants, and Harry Potter sensory stories. We are all learning to develop resilience to a range of demands and boundaries such as following self-care routines, accepting rules in games and social situations, and being challenged cognitively. Every pupil is working well towards their PLPs. We hope you all have an enjoyable half term!

Kimberley and the Access team

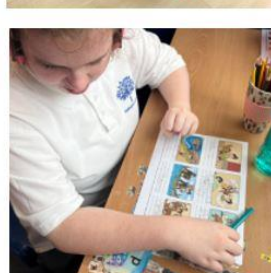
Beech class

A huge welcome back from the Beech class team! It was so lovely to see all of the students return to school in September and to hear what they had been up to over the summer. We got straight back to work when we returned and are slowly getting used to our new timetable. Our text in literacy has been 'The Magic Paintbrush', and the students have loved getting to grips with the text and understanding the morals throughout the story, they especially enjoyed designing and talking about what they would paint if they had a magic paintbrush, ideas were unlimited pizza and red velvet cake to another paintbrush.

The class continue to enjoy our sessions in the library, and this year the students are taking it in turns to read their favourite book to the class. This week Leon read "my big shouting day", he read beautifully and the students loved finding a comfy place to sit/lie. We are teaching them to "read for pleasure", and to enjoy the joy of books.

We have also restarted our structured games sessions, snakes and ladders is a firm favourite, and encouraging the students to play together and not just alone. We are also taking time out each week to have some quiet sessions where we do mindful colouring and puzzles, we have started leaving a 500 piece puzzle out for the students (and staff) to do as and when they want to.

When we return after the half term break we have one of the busiest and most exciting terms, Halloween, Bonfire Night and Christmas, a super fun time!



Holly Class

Holly Class have had a great first term back and we can't quite believe we are at the end of the first half term already. The pupils have settled well into our new routines and we have welcomed 2 new pupils and staff members to our team too. We have been lucky enough to have had Make Sense theatre visit us weekly this half term. Holly pupils have been fully engaged in their sessions, full of smiles and laughter. It is our last week with them but I am hopeful we can have them back again soon. The pupils have also enjoyed our PE lessons with Dan, where the pupils have been exploring the climbing equipment. We have continued with our daily personalised cognition activities, linked to our topic 'Magic & Mystery'. We look forward to another fun filled half term full of learning.



Birch Class

It has been a fantastic first half term for Birch Class, where we work on our Regulation, Engagement, Communication and Core Learning skills. We have been enjoying our 'Magic and Mystery topic', with activities including themed Sensory Stories, Attention 'Bucket' and Tacpac sessions, which incorporate all of our senses. We have a great time during our weekly Make Sense Theatre and Immersive Theatre circus sessions, transitioning well to different rooms and areas in school. We put pleasing effort into our Literacy and Numeracy sessions, where we work on personalised targets and we also undertake several other Literacy-based activities such as Phonics and Colourful Semantics. During weekly Art sessions we have been making topic-related products including model broomsticks, black cat faces, magic wands and felt witches' hats. It has been a fun and hugely rewarding half term for all!



Lime class

In Lime class, this term the focus was on regulation and on creating relationships! Make Sense theatre gave us the chance to explore different fabrics and textures through intensive interaction. It was amazing! We also started going offsite, which has really helped us regulating ourselves. Lastly, in Music we have explored different musical instruments, which we really enjoy!



Key Stage 3

Aspen Class

Aspen class have been very busy since starting this year!

We have started the topic 'Magic and Mystery'. We are learning all about making potions, spells hexes to battle with dragons, unicorns and fairies. In maths, we have been learning about number, time and temperature. We have been using our temperature skills to try and work out what the weather is doing during our playtimes! In maths, we are also focussing on measure and capacity to revisit our prior learning from last term. In literacy we are looking at three different books: George's Marvellous Medicine, Room on the Broom and Harry Potter. We have been brewing potions made from nature, flying on broomsticks to find lost wands and writing our own letters to send with owls! In RHSE we are learning about relationships and families, and in science we are also looking at space and dinosaurs. For PE we have been practising our tennis skills. We have been to the Museum of English Rural Life to practise being museum curators for the day. It was brilliant to see what it would be like to work for the day!

Check out the pictures below!



Cedar Class

In Cedar Class we have had a lovely first half term back! We have some new students who moved from other classes but they seem to have settled very well in the new classroom environment. This half term, we learned all about ourselves. We made portraits of ourselves and also share some activities we like. We also talked about family and relationships and adults who live in our house and who we can trust. This term our topic is 'Magic and Mystery' and we have exploring the stories 'George's marvellous medicine' and 'Room on the Broom'. We had fun mixing different portions and learning about ingredients. We also loved going to Camp Mohawk for the first time this year! We also learned about money practiced our counting skills.



Elm class

We have had a brilliant start to the year in Elm class!

We have loved our new topic, Magic and Mystery, and really enjoyed studying our first text, George's Marvellous Medicine. We had lots of fun creating our own medicines and Elm class impressed everyone with their imaginative ideas and their use of adjectives - a mixture of colourful candyfloss, crunchy shoe polish and rotten food anyone?

In Science, we have been learning about the solar system, and have really impressed the Science team with our knowledge! In PE, we have been developing our tennis skills, and in Art, we have been designing and making our own figures.

Some of us have started a Bike Maintenance course, others have begun an Arts Award, and everyone has enjoyed cooking lessons and developing independence skills visiting Woodley Library.

We have also been swimming every week at Bulmershe Leisure Centre and it has been fantastic to see everyone making such good progress.

We can't wait to see what the next half term brings!



Maple Class

Maple class have started their learning this term with 'Magic and Mystery'. We started by looking at the book 'George's Marvellous Medicine' and made our own potions. In maths we focused on money (coins and notes) and time (days of the week and months of the year).

In cooking we have focused on sandwiches and different fillings and used cutters to make different shapes. The skills used have included spreading butter and making choices. We also had a focus on using knives and forks correctly to cut up toast.

We have maximized our outside time this half term, the weather being great has meant that we have used the fixed equipment such as the swings as well the trikes and scooters frequently which the children have enjoyed. We have also kept active in our swimming lessons at Bulmershe Leisure Centre where we have participated in weekly lessons. We have had several sessions at Camp Mohawk too and have used the inside and outside spaces.



Chestnut Class

We have had a great start to the year! All the students have settled into their new class and are becoming familiar with the daily routines.

This term we are going to Camp Mohawk with Becca every third week. The students get very excited about this and enjoy being outside and exploring the wonderful facilities at this very special place. So far we have been lucky with the weather. We hope you enjoy looking at the photos. In Food Play, we have been experimenting with a variety of different foods. There is no expectation to eat the foods, although many of the students can't wait until the end of the lesson so they can have a try! We like to include an element of challenge in the lessons, such as who can flick the popcorn piece the furthest, or who can thread the most Cheerios onto a stick of spaghetti.

We've been lucky enough to have some visits from Bailey the PAT dog who has stopped by Chestnut Class for his treats and cuddles, which always generates lots of smiles and excitement.





Key Stage 4

Swan Class

Project: Right Here Right Now

Swan class have been very busy taking part in a range of activities for our project 'Right Here, Right Now'. Students organised a MacMillan Cake Sale for staff and students and raised over £225 for the charity. They made their own posters and marketing materials, baked cakes, traybakes and cookies, and then hosted the morning selling the cakes around the school. In preparation for the cake sale, students took part in their own 'Great British Bake off' which included an 'Icing bag challenge' of decorating 6 cupcakes with an icing bag in the quickest time – the record was 6 seconds!

As we continued with our project in Cookery, we took on 'The Apprentice' teams working in small groups had to design and make their own unique pizza – we even had a Mr Bean Pizza design! Students in ICT also had an Apprentice challenge of shopping on line the most efficiently for a number of items on 'Lord Sugar's' shopping list.



Preparation for Adulthood

Our students have already been taking part in a range of work experience this term. Some students have weekly bike maintenance, whilst others attend PE work experience. As a class we have also been on our first external work ready day, to Pizza Express in Wokingham, where students found out more about careers in the hospitality industry but also had the opportunity to make their own Pizza Express Pizza's.

In preparing our students for adulthood and independence, students in year 10/11 take part in weekly travel training. They have been using their bus passes to plan and execute a route into Reading and return using local buses. As well as using public transport, out in the community our focus this term has also been road safety, supporting our students to independently and safely cross roads.



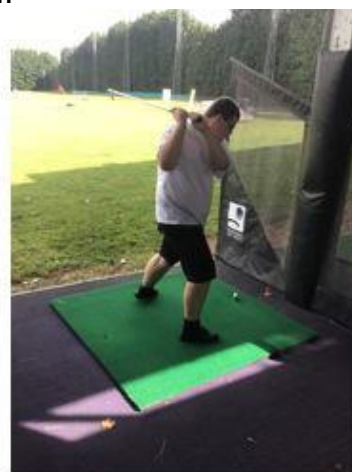
Falcon Class

We have enjoyed getting out and about this term – one of our favourite activities has been golf at Downshire Golf Complex. Some of us have really enjoyed this as our first Life Long Leisure activity.

We have also enjoyed regular cooking sessions – developing our independence with all sorts of skills

Swimming at Bulmershe Leisure centre has also been a highlight of our week
We have also been enjoying our topic 'Right here. Right now' where we have learnt about the rugby world cup, raised money for the Macmillan charity, celebrated World gratitude day and much more.

We look forward to more learning opportunities next half term..





Kite Class

Our Project is called 'Right here, Right now'. We started the term with a focus on biscuits linked to Huntley and Palmer being famous biscuit makers right here in Reading for 201 years, and the fact that Bake Off has started on T.V. again right now. The pupils have taste tested biscuits, written biscuit descriptions, ordered biscuit recipes, followed recipes to bake biscuits, improved recipes and made biscuits to sell in our Macmillan Coffee Morning. Some pupils visited the statue of George Palmer in Palmer Park.



Every Thursday afternoon we go to Ridgeline, which is a Therapeutic Garden, for work experience. The pupils get to do all sorts of jobs from cutting the grass, to covering cabbages with netting to protect them from the birds, to deadheading flowers and planting seeds.



Continuing with our Project work we have learned about what a Foodbank is and why people need to use them right here in Woodley. We have found out what food the foodbank is short of. The pupils have been shopping for food for the foodbank, completing their own transactions. The pupils have written posters explaining what the Foodbank needs and have given posters to adults around school and taken them home. We have collected a good amount of food for the foodbank which we will deliver in person next week.



The pupils have also done regular Phonics and Reading sessions. They've worked on Tennis skill in P.E. with Mel and some pupils have done a Friday Fitness Class. Some pupils have done work experience at Loddon School which has involved chopping food to feed pigs and mucking out a donkey stable. Another student has participated in Sensory Theatre sessions with a Circus Theme. Well done Kite Pupils. You deserve a half term rest.

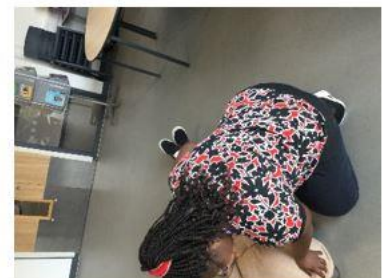
Sixth Form News

Kestrel Class

Kestrel students have started the new academic year at a pace. Cooking lessons this year require students to choose a suitable recipe, check the kitchen for ingredients and then shop for the other required items. They return to school and prepare their own lunch following the recipe.



As part of the weekly PHSE lessons, students have been learning about First Aid. They have been practising how to assess a scene and put into practise the acronym DRABC (danger, response, airway, breathing, circulation).



The students that have transitioned from KS4 have been demonstrating their independent living skills by making beds, washing, drying and ironing. Our new students have shown how quickly they can acquire new skills.



Our project this term is Right Here, Right Now. Students have been discovering as much information as they can about Woodley and the surrounding area. They have travel trained to three different museums in Reading to assist in this task.



Owl class

It's been a busy half term in Owl class. Our topic this term is 'Right here, right now', so we have been getting out and about in our local community. We have had lots of trips to Woodley, sometimes travelling by bus, and at other times, choosing to walk to enjoy the sunshine. Here, we've enjoyed reading books in the library, choosing snacks at Greggs and feeding the ducks at Woodford Park. We always make sure to practice our road safety skills on our offsite trips too. We go on regular supermarket trips to buy our cooking ingredients and practice money skills. We've visited Highwood Nature Reserve on multiple occasions, using communication symbols to help us look out for nature and wildlife. We've also been enjoying being outside in the lovely autumnal weather in our weekly Ridgeline sessions, where we practice our gardening skills. When we're not out and about, Owl class have been busy swimming, cooking and being creative in art. We've enjoyed using the 6th form kitchen to make flapjacks, ginger biscuits, pasta salad and pizzas. We've loved this term's music and immersive theatre sessions (it made some of us jump to see our teacher dressed as a clown!) We've enjoyed sensory stories and relaxing TAC PAC sessions, and ended each week with a boogie during our Friday afternoon Owl class disco!



Robin Class

Robin class have had a brilliant start to the new academic year! Our 5 new students have settled in well and are enjoying life in 6th form!

As part of our project for this term 'Right Here, Right Now' we have learnt all about each other and have explored the 6th form building. We have ventured out into the community, visiting shops, cafes and the library in Woodley; as well as starting the Link course at Reading College, and a weekly shopping trip to Asda. Students are enjoying weekly cooking sessions, working in the café as well as improving our independent living skills. We are looking forward to starting our link course with Bracknell and Wokingham College after half term as well as beginning our swimming sessions at Bulmershe School.

The pictures below will give you a flavour of how well we have been doing in Robin class already this year!



Eagle class

A new term, a new academic year and a new class soon saw any apprehensions fade and new friendships being forged.

New students have joined and settled well into Eagle class and the 6th Form. Over this half term, our young people have enjoyed a number of activities in the wider community to develop social, leisure, independence and life skills.

Some of the highlights have been doing work experience in school and in the community. Students have enjoyed attending and getting a flavour of college life, doing the links course at Reading College. To access lifelong leisure and sporting activities, some of our young people have enjoyed weekly swimming sessions at the Bulmershe Leisure Centre, while others have developed skills in badminton and Disc golf. During their weekly visits to either the Woodford Park Leisure Centre or Dinton Pastures.

While some students are pursuing a City and Guilds in Horticulture each week, others have visited The Ridgeline Trust to learn about and have a sensory experience in gardening. Pictures are worth a thousand words and the ones below are evidence of very positive and enriching activities had by all.

Eagle class wishes all a safe and enjoyable half term break.



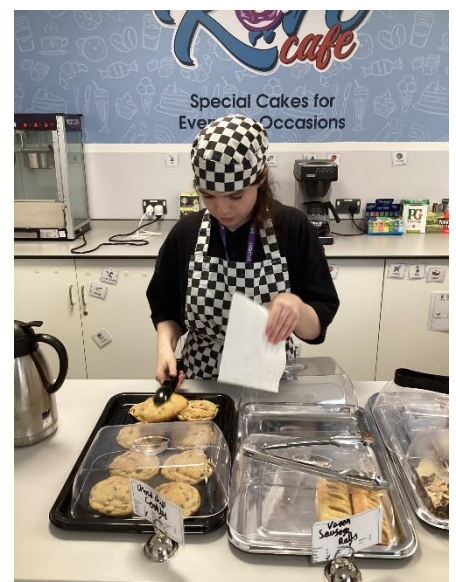
Horticulture

This half term in Horticulture we have focused on our pumpkins, the students have done incredibly well with our first ever pumpkin patch where there are over 30 pumpkins they have managed to grow from the seeds harvested from last year's pumpkins. A very big well done to all students involved.

The students then carved one of pumpkins and used the seeds to make a Halloween decoration.



Hospitality



This term in Hospitality we have been training up the new students who have started their City & Guilds course working in the café. We have been out to cafes in Reading to get ideas for our own café and experience good customer service. We have also been preparing lots of cakes to say thank you to the builders getting the Farley Hill School ready!



The Creative Arts Page



Drama

Early Years

Theme: Brilliant Bodies

Students in Bluebell, Lily and Daffodil have taken part in simple drama activities exploring Early Years theme of Brilliant Bodies. We have used our bodies in different ways, played parachute games and even had a visit from a rabbit who had funny ears!



KS3 Drama

Theme: Developing drama skills and joining in.

Students have been developing movement and communication.

We have created short scenes helping us communicate with each other.

Students have used their creative thinking and created scene around a ringing telephone and magic box.



KS4

Theme: Storytelling

Kite class have been exploring the story of Red Riding Hood from Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes. Exploring characters and key scenes 'Oh Grandma, what great big eyes you have!'



Kite class visited the park each week. They smelt the flowers, played ball games with friends and walked the dog until it rained! They also met some interesting characters at the park! A witch, a Queen and a disco dancing Maria!

KS5

Theme: Storytelling- focusing on KS5 project theme 'Right here, right now'

Eagle class discussed topical news stories and create a still image showing the event. We then explored how we could bring the still image to life using key drama conventions- narration, thought tracking and physical theatre. Eagle class created a performance based on local history. We used the theme of 'biscuits' and the Huntley and Palmers Factory in Reading. Students worked on 4 scenes to different pieces of music. We showed the inside workings of the factory, words to describe biscuits, a poem and a movement scene showing a ship taking biscuits around the world.



Eagle class showed the performance to the rest of KS5. Amadu commented it was '10 out of 10' and Danny said it made him feel hungry!



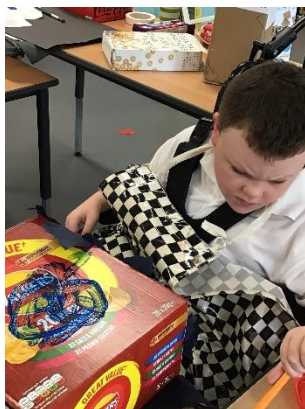
Immersive Theatre

This term our students are going to the circus. They enjoy and engage with the different acts on offer which use the different senses. There is a clown act who needs help with lifting up his suitcase, throwing bean bags at or into a target, riding on a rollercoaster/teacup ride and a shadow puppet tightrope walker performance. There are refreshments too for the students which visit their taste and smell.



Art

Referring to the Key Stage 2 theme 'Toys', in Art we have been making toys. Willow class have been exploring mark making, colour and 3D materials. We have nearly finished making a pull along train!



Rowan Class have also been exploring 3D materials making Robots.



The artist Antony Gormley has been our focus this half in Key Stage 3. Focusing on the shape of the body, figure drawing, texture and mark making, we have been using a range of materials to create body shapes in both 2D and 3D.



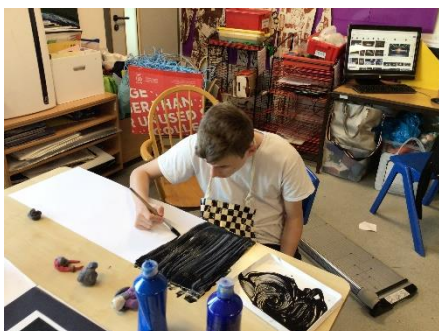


Beech class have been using their imaginations to create Magical Creature models using 3D materials. They are very nearly finished and are looking AMAZING!!



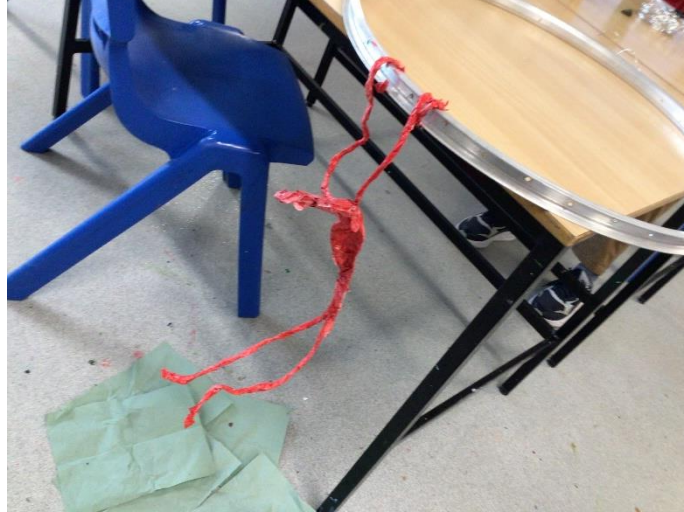
Key Stage 4

The new KS4 Falcon class have started work on their stop motion films and creating portfolios for Arts award. We have created characters and have now started building the sets!



6th Form

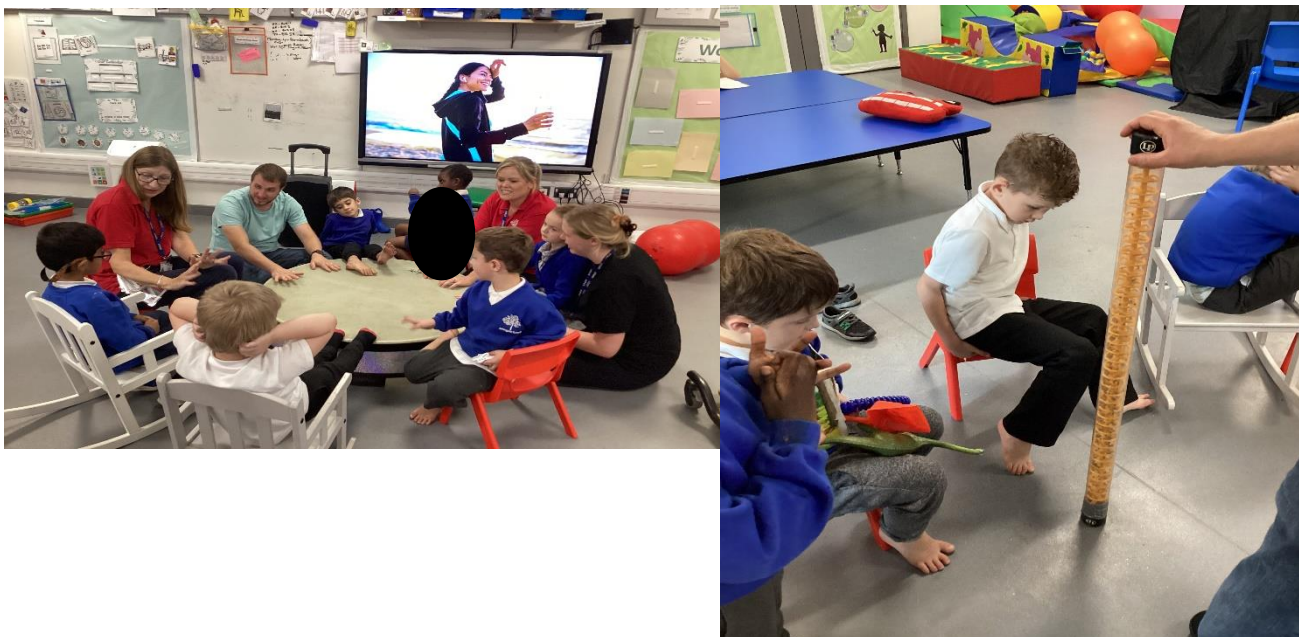
Have been referencing the work of Giacometti and Gablik by creating elongated figure sculptures using wire and papier-mâché. The aim is that their sculptures will in some way represent their personality or interests some way.



Music

Early Years

This half term students have been exploring songs based upon the weather. They have been focussing on songs about sunshine and the rain. They have using percussion instruments to explore playing and stopping, using the gathering drum to learn simple rhythms and exploring metallic instruments and rain sticks to make a rain soundscape.



Sensory

This half term in S&C music we have been enjoying a journey across North America. We have explored the link between movement and music while travelling across Lake Superior, lifting fabric up and down to match the dynamic change of our piece. We have experimented with drums during two pieces: 'Land of the Silver Birch', in which we were following the leader's tempo changes and cueing the tempo changes ourselves, and also 'Big Foot Country', in which we were learning to tap or anticipate a repeating rhythm. We have finished each of our lessons with a beautiful song called 'I am your friend', sung in Mohawk by the Native American artist Joanne Shenandoah (well worth finding on YouTube or Spotify and listening to with your child at home!)



KS2

This term in KS2 music, we have been exploring music through the topic of 'Way out West'. The pupils have enjoyed exploring rhythm, movement and singing during our warm up activity each week, tapping along and following actions using claves to classic American songs such as 'Oh Suzanna' and 'She'll be coming round the mountain'. We have learnt to sing and play 'Land of the Silver Birch', putting together class ensemble performances which we then filmed and evaluated as a class group. In the latter part of the half-term we have experimented with improvisation with the song 'Sittin' on Top of the World'.



KS3

This term in KS3 music, we have been exploring music through the topic of 'Way out West'. The pupils have enjoyed exploring 'Duelling Banjos' as a warm up activity, following call and response rhythms on various instruments and taking it in turns to be leaders. We learnt to

play the main theme from 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly' on keyboards before composing our own versions of the iconic melody. We then expanded on our composition work in the latter part of the half-term by writing a soundscape to match a story, carefully considering when our music should sound sad or happy, fast or slow, loud or quiet. We then performed our compositions in small groups.

KS4

This term, Swan class have been focussing on Part A of their Bronze Arts Award portfolio which records their participation in the arts. We have been learning 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly'. All students learnt the repeating rhythm and melody on keyboards and xylophones. They then took turns to play a different role within the ensemble on the drums, xylophones and keyboards. Students then picked their favourite to rehearse for their final performance. They have been keeping diaries along this journey, saying what they have learnt, improved and will do in their next lesson.



6th Form

Robin class have been developing their leadership skills through a film project about road safety. Through group discussions, they have created a plan upon the brief set and worked out each student's responsibility. The class have split into 3 groups, creating music for the film, taking photos or filming videos. Once the film is complete they will evaluate it and discuss how they have developed their leadership skills.

Peri Lessons

Our peripatetic lessons have all started this term and are going very well. We have new students taking up instrumental lessons including those who had trials last year. We are pleased to welcome back the same team of teachers and therapists too.

Clubs

The Addington Band has started again with some new faces. We are pleased to be back in the music room and the ensemble have started their preparations towards the festive concert at the end of term.

In Drama Club students have been busy on Tuesday lunchtime developing their mime skills. We have created mime journeys. So far students have been on a car, boat, magic carpet and broomstick!

Reading Junior Music Festival

After the success of last year's concert, we have entered a small choir to join the Reading Junior Music Festival which is taking place at The Hexagon in Reading on Monday 6th November. Our choir are rehearsing twice a week and are enjoying the songs which are from musicals. You can buy tickets from The Hexagon website.

Upcoming Events

Here are a couple of dates for your diary next half term:

- Reading Junior Music Festival (The Hexagon) – Monday 6th November – 7pm
- Addington Association Carol Concert – Monday 11th December – 7pm
- Community Carol Singing (Woodley Precinct) – Tuesday 12th December 1:45pm

You can find regular updates on our music page on the school website

<https://www.addington.wokingham.sch.uk/pupil-pages/music>

Here you will also find resources and videos for the pupils to engage with at home.

We hope you all enjoy your half term!

The Creative Arts Team



News from the Association

Email: AddingtonAssociation@gmail.com

Christmas Fayre

The Addington Association Team have started preparing for the Christmas Fayre, which is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday December 2nd (precise timing TBC). If you're interested in helping, or have an idea for something that could be fun to do there, get in touch with us at AddingtonAssociation@gmail.com

Carol Concert,

The concert will be taking place on **Monday 11th December at 7pm at Addington**. Once again, we are incredibly lucky to be joined by the very wonderful Woodley Concert Band. It will no doubt be another festive and fun evening! Please note that entry will be via the 6th form gate, not the main entrance. **NO TICKETS REQUIRED** - just turn up on the evening and sing along with the Band!

There will be the usual songs and carols to join in with as well as some special performances by the young people from Addington. We will also enjoy the opportunity to hear a Christmas story from Sara.

Following the concert, it would be lovely for as many of you as possible to join us for a festive drink and snack. This will take place in the 6th form building.

Addington Association - a bit about us

The Addington Association is comprised of parents & carers who have children at Addington, plus associate members. We are a registered charity, and as such have a chairperson (or chairpersons), a treasurer and secretary - but the Association carries out its activities through the efforts of parents & carers like you!

Primarily, we work across the Parent Carer community to raise money for things that are not covered by school funding - but it's not all about the money! We also aim for events to be fun for the community and to offer a way for you to get involved in school life.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out at events; for new ideas for fun fundraising activities; and at the moment, we're looking for a secretary to work alongside the Chairs and Treasurer. If you are interested in supporting, please do get in touch at AddingtonAssociation@gmail.com

Raffle Prizes - donations very welcome!

We run raffles at various events throughout the year - if you have any items that you'd be able to donate to support activities like this, they'd be very welcome. Items must be clean, unused and non-perishable - if you have anything you'd like to donate, please get in touch at AddingtonAssociation@gmail.com

Easy Fundraising and School lottery

School Lottery

Did you know we have our own School lottery for Addington? You can find out more detail about it at <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/addington-school-association>

Easy Fundraising

[EasyFundraising](https://www.easypatron.co.uk/) is a cashback site where your purchases on the internet can result in fundraising for our school at no extra cost for you. Go to [EasyFundraising.org.uk](https://www.easypatron.co.uk/) and search for 'Addington' or click [here](https://www.easypatron.co.uk/)

Nicola Perkins and Chris Bothwell
Co-Chairs
Addington Association

ADDINGTON SCHOOL TERM DATES 2023 - 2024



AUTUMN TERM 2023

Inset Days – (closed to pupils)	Friday 1 September & Monday 4 September 2023
Term Starts	Tuesday 5 September 2023
Inset Day – (Closed to pupils)	Friday 20 October 2023
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October 2023 inclusive
Inset Day (closed to pupils)	Monday 30 October 2023
Term Restarts	Tuesday 31 October 2023
Term Ends	Friday 15 December 2023

SPRING TERM 2024

Term Starts	Tuesday 2 January 2024
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February 2024 inclusive
Term Restarts	Monday 19 February 2024
Term Ends	Thursday 28 March 2024

SUMMER TERM 2024

Term Starts	Monday 15 April 2024
Inset Day – (closed to pupils)	Friday 24 May 2024
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May 2024 inclusive
Term Restarts	Monday 3 June 2024
Term Ends	Tuesday 23 July 2024

Inset Days – School closed to pupils

Friday 1 September 2023
 Monday 4 September 2023
 Friday 20 October 2023
 Monday 30 October 2023
 Friday 24 May 2024

ADDINGTON SCHOOL TERM DATES 2024 - 2025



AUTUMN TERM 2024

Inset Days – (closed to pupils)	Tuesday 3 September & Wednesday 4 September 2024
Term Starts	Thursday 5 September 2024
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November 2024 inclusive
Inset Days (closed to pupils)	Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 November 2024
Term Restarts	Wednesday 6 November 2024
Term Ends	Friday 20 December 2024

SPRING TERM 2025

Term Starts	Monday 6 January 2025
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2025 inclusive
Term Restarts	Monday 24 February 2025
Term Ends	Friday 4 April 2025

SUMMER TERM 2025

Term Starts	Tuesday 22 April 2025
Bank Holiday – School Closed	Monday 5 May 2025
Inset Day – (closed to pupils)	Friday 23 May 2025
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025 inclusive
Term Restarts	Monday 2 June 2025
Term Ends	Wednesday 23 July 2025

Inset Days – School closed to pupils

Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4
September 2024
Monday 4 & Tuesday 5 November
2024
Friday 23 May 2025