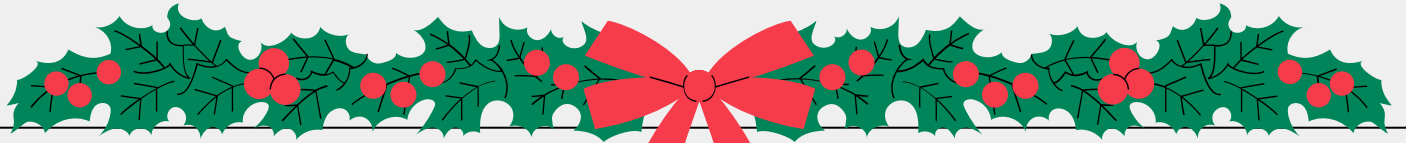


KINGFISHER NEWS



December 2022

NEWSLETTER

Vol 1 Issue 38



KINGFISHER
PRIMARY SCHOOL

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Ms Fiona Armstrong



It I hope that this newsletter finds you well and that you find this issue informative about your child's learning and about up and coming events.

Firstly, I would like to start with some thank yous. Thank you for the generosity you have shown over the past two terms with our fundraising events. We have supported One Big Family with Harvest donations and raised money for Macmillan, Children in Need and Save the Children. Even during times of financial difficulty, the community is still focused on putting other people first and that is truly amazing.

Secondly, we have continued to keep our Wide Horizons priority high with lots of trips and visits happening to support the children's learning and creativity. We have been to Canterbury Cathedral, Fort Amherst and Morrisons to name a few. And finally, as the end of term 2 approaches we have well and truly been rejoicing in Christmas spirit with Nativity rehearsals, Christmas dinner and carol concerts.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year and to remind you all that we are here to help if you need anything. Take care and enjoy the Christmas break.

Cygnets



FRIENDS

We started our year with only a few existing children who welcomed our new entrants. The children have all explored our indoor and outdoor environments, showing curiosity, a willingness to try new things and to practise and improve skills. All our Cygnet children have been developing the skills they need to be good class mates and, in some instances, good friends. They are developing a respect and responsibility for each other and their school environment.

DEVELOPING SKILLS

During the two terms we have spent together we have practised and developed skills such as exploring art materials, name writing, counting, cutting out, making models and role playing. We have visited the forest and the children are all really at home and know how to be safe in this environment. It was so lovely to welcome parents into the class at the end of Term 1 and the beginning of Term 2 to join in our Diwali celebration and the annual Pumpkin Carve. We have really missed these times to share your child's school life with you and hope to do much more of this over the rest of the academic year.



FOR MORE VISIT: www.kingfisher-gst.org

Swans



APPLES AND CELEBRATIONS

Swans have had a wonderfully busy term! We have settled in well and have enjoyed exploring different areas of the environment. The children enjoyed a special visit from the 'Apple Ladies' where we learnt all about different types of apples and where they come from. The 'Pink lady' apple was very popular indeed! We have also been lucky enough to invite parents in for Diwali celebrations and Pumpkin carving where lots of fun was had, along with a class trip to Morrisons.



ACTIVITIES

In the lead up to Christmas we have learnt all about pumpkins, hedgehogs and have enjoyed exploring the forest where we've made hedgehog homes, firework leaf sparklers and looked for signs of autumn and winter. The children thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime and also really enjoyed our school Christmas dinner.



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Robins



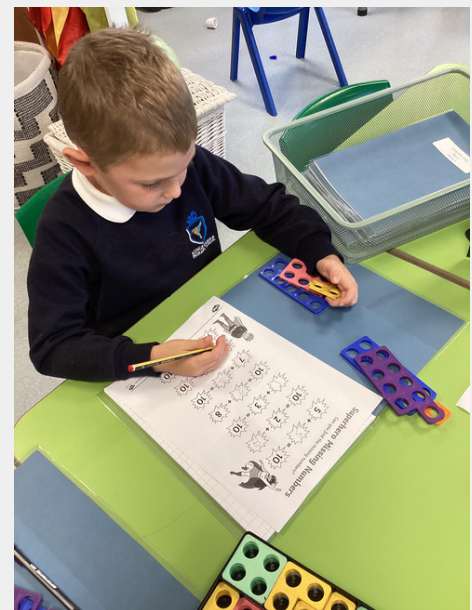
LONDON

This term Robins have been learning about London and its iconic landmarks such as Buckingham Palace and Tower Bridge. We have learnt that Buckingham Palace has 775 rooms and that the gold cross on top of St Paul's Cathedral is the weight of 7 cars!!

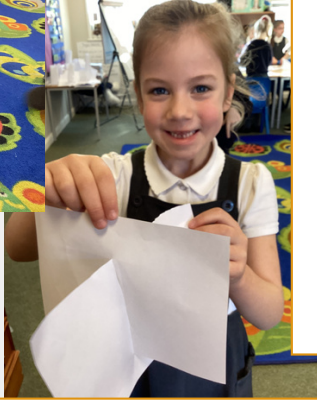
Jeremy from the Guildhall Museum came into school to tell us all about the Great Fire of London and why the fire spread so quickly. They didn't have the fire brigade then so people were using buckets of water to put the fire out. We also learnt about fire safety and how to keep ourselves safe.

MATHS

Robins have been practising their number bonds up to 20 this term so they are able to recall them really quickly. We have also looked at 2D and 3D shapes and found different shapes around school.



Woodpeckers



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

This term Year 2 have been learning different joins, sliders and levers. The children especially enjoyed learning the flange join. We will use what we have learned to make castles and some very special cards.

THE PAPERBAG PRINCESS

We have read the story 'The Paperbag Princess' and the children decided the princess was fearless and clever whilst the prince was selfish and ungrateful. Have you read any stories that challenge stereotypes?



NATIVITY

Year 2 have been practising hard for the nativity this term and the children have learnt all their lines and songs brilliantly. We look forward to being able to share it with parents in the new year as it is really important that the children get to perform their nativity. Thank you for your support with costumes. We can't wait to show you!

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Doves

Maths

CORE LEARNING

In maths we have been learning about place value and the order of numbers. We have really been focusing on our times tables and making sure we have quick recall with our 2, 5, 10, 3 and 4 timetables. In English we have read a story about Snow-White and the Angry Dwarf, he was very angry! The children wrote character descriptions about him. We have also been reading The Firework Makers' Daughter and the white elephant called Hamlet, has been being used as a billboard!

FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

In RE we looked at the stories of Moses. We found out about the 10 commandments and we even made our own for the classroom. We have also been looking at different Christmas traditions including our own.

In PE we have learnt lots of foot and hand skills, developed our hand eye co-ordination and how to work as a team.

We have also learnt some really effective art skills. We made wild animals come to life with our amazing shading skills.



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Eagles



TERM 1

Year 4 have been working extremely hard during terms 1 and 2 and have made me and themselves enormously proud of their progress. In term 1, children were reading the book Cosmic which is all about a boy who gets lost in space! The children loved this book and published some amazing writing in their publishing books, we were most proud of their brochure about a theme park called Infinity Park. In Curriculum our big question was 'Where did I come from?' and the children spent some time in geography looking at their local area and learnt some gooey facts about the digestive system in science!



TERM 2

In term 2, year 4 have been reading a book called Varjak Paw which they have all extremely enjoyed-they became Varjak's biggest supporter to help him save his family! They can't wait to read the second book as our class reading book next term. During Curriculum, year 4 have been learning about Romans and have immensely grown their knowledge about the invasions of Romans. For DT, we made catapults and learnt how catapults were used by Romans. In Science, we have been learning about states of matter and we were able to explore the different states of matter. During terms 1 and 2, every Wednesday the children learnt how to play the Ukulele and were able to play Jingle Bells by the end of the term! They were extremely proud of themselves. We are very excited for next term to make even more progress!



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Owls



TERM 1

In term 1 year 5 we looked at the question of “where did I come from?”. We covered this question in a variety of subjects; Identifying countries, looking at the difference between the United Kingdom and the British Isles and the counties that make up England. We also delved into our literary history looking at classics such as Charles Dickens and Shakespeare, discussing themes of morality and good & evil. To solidify this knowledge and understanding year 5 went on a trip to Shakespeare’s globe, getting a tour from one of the actors. They also took part in a workshop run by the actors, specifically focusing on the witches’ scene in Macbeth.



TERM 2

In term 2 Year 5 focused on 20th century conflict. We spent the term delving into both World Wars, looking specifically at World War One and how the consequences affected Europe leading up to World War Two. Students looked at the timeline of events, the weaponry used, the political climates, life for soldiers in the trenches and the treaty of Versailles. We covered world war two in both history and English, reading ‘letters from the lighthouse’ to understand the experience of evacuated children and the struggles of the refugees from Europe escaping Hitler. This knowledge was consolidated when students paid a visit to fort Amherst, where they saw the reconstructions of the fort during war time, and delved through its tunnels. They also reached the highest point in Chatham and looked at various local landmarks.

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Falcons



EVENTS AND TRIPS

This term in Year 6 has been full of great events, trips and hard work! The class went to Fort Amherst where they were taken through the tunnels which helped Medway throughout the war. This was linked to our book that we have studied throughout the term called 'Letters From the Lighthouse'. We also went to the cinema to see the Railway Children Return which was a great experience for us all. The girls came third in the Southern Schools football tournament and the boys ended up winning.

SUPER LEARNING

This term has also seen children building Anderson shelters, experimenting with light and sharpening their basketball and dance skills. The remarkable children of Year 6 have also refined their fractions, decimals and percentages skills and are showing great progress in their reading. I hope everyone in year 6 (teachers included) has a fantastic Christmas and a happy New Year! We look forward to having you back in January when the SATs push will continue!

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Wide Horizons



GABRIELLI ROAR

Year 5 and 6 were invited to participate in a concert with the singers of Gabrielli Roar. The children had a rehearsal with the artistic director at school before heading to Canterbury Cathedral for their second rehearsal and final performance. Kingfisher were part of an ensemble of 400 children and performed alongside children from Saxon Way and Lordswood. This opportunity was created from the links that Mr Delevitt, The Griffin Schools Trust music director, had created with Gabrielli.

Gabrielli Roar is passionate about creating opportunities for school aged children to sing and perform and to be supported by professional musicians. We loved being part of it.



FOR MORE VISIT: www.kingfisher-gst.org

Other News



PARKING

Parking continues to be a huge concern on Kingfisher Drive. As a result, we are looking for some volunteers who can help us with parking management. If you would be able to help us with this please contact the school office.

Please can we reiterate **not** to park on the yellow zig-zag lines either side of the school gate or on the yellow line opposite the school gate between drop off and pick up times. This is illegal.

You may find it easier to park in Sheridan Close and to come down the steps opposite the school. Alternatively, please park at the bottom of the hill and walk up. Anyone who lives close to the school please do walk and keep Kingfisher Drive as clear as possible. Thank you for your support with this.

VOLUNTEER READERS- TRAINING

Thank you so much to all who have volunteered to support us with our quest of improving reading in the school. If you would be able to spare an hour a week and would be interested in supporting some individual children with their reading, please come to the training session on **Monday 8th January at 2pm**. For those of you who have expressed an interest already, DBS checks are slowly coming through and we hope to get started this started ASAP.

PARENT FORUM

On **Tuesday 9th January**, I would like to hold a parent forum to discuss school issues. Refreshments will be available and I would welcome your ideas and input with how we can improve the school. Please meet in the Kingfisher café after drop off at **9:00am** to work together on areas that really matter to our community. Please come and support us make a difference. I look forward to seeing you there.

Yearly Planner

Please note key dates for the year. Any amendments are in red.



Week	Date	Cycle	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0	29-Aug		BANK HOLIDAY	SCHOOLS CLOSED	SCHOOLS CLOSED	SCHOOLS CLOSED	SCHOOLS CLOSED
1	05-Sep	1	KINGFISHER INSET DAY	KINGFISHER INSET DAY			
2	12-Sep	1		Ruski Dahl Day			
3	19-Sep	1	Big Draw week		Mayor of Midway visit am		Meet the teacher Saturday- Big Draw community event
4	26-Sep	1					Mazmikan coffee meeting
5	03-Oct	1	Black history month			GSE	GSE
6	10-Oct	1		Parent RWT workshop			
7	17-Oct	1			Harvest festival		Parent Book look & Disoli celebration
	24-Oct		HALF-TERM (All schools)	HALF-TERM (All schools)	HALF-TERM (All schools)	HALF-TERM (All schools)	HALF-TERM (All schools)
8	31-Oct	1	SAF's opens PS Parnikin festival				
9	07-Nov	1					SAF's closes Remembrance Day
10	14-Nov	1	Anti-bullying week		Parent consultations	Parent consultations	Children in need
11	20-Nov	1					
12	28-Nov	1	Griffin Children's Chorus Carols Performance				
13	05-Dec	1				Christmas jumper day	
14	12-Dec	2	PS & KS1 Nativity	PS & KS1 Nativity			School finish at 2pm
	19-Dec		Christmas Holiday	Christmas Holiday	Christmas Holiday	Christmas Holiday	Christmas Holiday
	26-Dec		BOXING DAY	CHRISTMAS DAY (Substitute)	Christmas Holiday	Christmas Holiday	Christmas Holiday
15	02-Jan	2	NEW YEAR'S DAY (Substitute)	INSET DAY			
16	09-Jan	2	Volunteer Readers Training	Parent forum with head			
17	16-Jan	2					
18	23-Jan	2	Chinese New Year				RSPB Birdwatch
19	30-Jan	2					
20	06-Feb	2	Shakespeare week	Refer Internet Day			Parent Book look
21	13-Feb		HALF-TERM	HALF-TERM	HALF-TERM	HALF-TERM	HALF-TERM
22	20-Feb	2					
23	27-Feb	2	SAF's opens				Founders Day
24	06-Mar	2	GSE				SAF's closes
25	13-Mar	2	British science week				Comic Relief
26	20-Mar	2					
27	27-Mar	2		Parent consultations	Parent consultations		
	03-Apr		Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday	GOOD FRIDAY
	10-Apr		EASTER MONDAY	Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday
28	17-Apr	3	SAF's opens				
29	24-Apr	3					
30	01-May	3	EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY				
31	08-May	3	King's Coronation Bank Holiday	KS2 SATs	KS2 SATs	KS2 SATs	KS2 SATs
32	15-May	3					
33	22-May	3					Parent book look & Big Sing
	29-May		SPRING BANK HOLIDAY	HALF-TERM (All schools)	HALF-TERM (All schools)	HALF-TERM (All schools)	HALF-TERM (All schools)
34	05-Jun	3					
35	12-Jun	3					Y5/6 Kingswood Residential
36	19-Jun	3	Y5/6 Kingswood Residential				
37	26-Jun	3	GAF	GAF	GAF	GAF	GAF
38	03-Jul	3	GAF	GAF	GAF	GAF	GAF
39	10-Jul	3					Book look and reports
40	17-Jul	3					School finish at 2pm
41	24-Jul	3	INSET DAY	INSET DAY			