



ADDINGTON NEWSLETTER



February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach half term, it seems like only yesterday we were coming back after Christmas- having said that January seemed to go on forever!

For our pupils though, as always, they have been kept extremely busy, not only with core subject learning like communication, reading, writing, cognition and Maths but also through the enriching activities of Creative Arts, Science, PE and PSHE.

One of those activities we are all very much looking forward to is the return of a whole school production, this time the Wizard of Oz and it has been hugely exciting to see all the preparations for this going on across the school. Please make sure you put the April dates in your diaries listed on the Creative Arts page for what I know, will be a wonderful showcase for our pupils.

Our new Early Years Centre at Farley Hill is now in full swing and it has been lovely to see 16 of our new youngest pupils enjoying the state of the art facilities. The space in the building has supported them to regulate, enabling them to progress and learn in a bespoke environment and we are very pleased that phase 2 of the building is on schedule for completion later on this year. A huge well done goes to Ellie Webb and her team at Farley Hill for a smooth, efficient start to our new venture. You can view a press release about the opening of the Early Years Centre [here](#).

Finally, a thank you to all parents and carers who responded to our consultation on becoming an academy and forming a new Trust of 3 special schools. Our vision of becoming 'Stronger and better together' has been met with support and there is much work being done behind the scenes to ensure this exciting new phase in Addington's history is on course to start for the next academic year. Our governors are due to meet on 13th March to finalise plans and I will keep you updated on the outcome as soon as possible. If you have not had the opportunity but want to find out more information, please visit our website page [here](#).

I wish everyone a happy half term and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 19th February.

Yours faithfully

Sara Attra
Executive Headteacher

Lynda Wood and David Maycock
Acting Co-Headteachers



Family Support Workers

Wills, Trusts and Deputyship Workshop



Thank you to all who came to listen David Roper from Hope Law talk about wills, trusts and deputyship. The turnout for both sessions was really good and from discussions with you on the day, and from your online feedback, we know that you found the sessions useful and informative. We know the topic is a heavy one and can be hard to face alone, so we hope these sessions made the topic a little bit lighter and easier to face. Hope Law's website is linked below, please let us know if you would like any more information about this.

<https://www.hopelaw.co.uk/>

PIP Online Workshop

Thank you also to everyone who joined our PIP (Personal Independence Payment) Workshop. Again we understand that applying for PIP and the resulting assessment can put a lot of stress on you as a parent or carer. We hope that you found the session useful and knowing the points system and assessment criteria will support your future applications. We as a Family Support Team are happy to meet with you when you need to send off your form, or to help you prepare for your assessment (Remember what we said during the training- we actually enjoy doing forms like this!). We hope the guidance we sent out after the workshop was useful and if you have time please fill in the feedback form to help us for our future workshops. The link to do this is below.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Q0tgez3rFn>

Coming soon

Emails have gone out about our next lot of workshops in February. There is still time to sign up for our Sleep Matters Workshop, which will be in school on 28th February at 10- 11:30. And also our Touch Talk Workshop, which will be in school on 21st February at either 10-11:30 or 6- 7:30 depending on what time you would prefer. Please fill in the Microsoft form that was sent out or email one us to express your interest.

<https://forms.office.com/e/MpxVecVNCR>

Toni and Joey have been doing ongoing training around what benefits our young people are entitled to. Watch this space for details about our next workshop on Disabled Living Allowance and how we can help.

Nothing is too small

Please rest assured that no worry or query is too small or too insignificant, if it matters to you and your family, it is important! We don't always have the answers, but we know people who might, so please know we will do our very best to support you and offer any advice we can.

Contact us

Did you know that we all have direct phone numbers you can contact us on now, as well as our previous extension numbers? Please see below for how you can get through to us:

Ellie

Email- ellier@addington.wokingham.sch.uk

School phone number- 0118 966 9073 EXT: **282**

Direct phone number- 0118 909 8042

Toni

Email- tonic@addington.wokingham.sch.uk

School phone number- 0118 966 9073 EXT: **240**

Direct phone number- 0118 909 8048

Joey

Email- joeyp@addington.wokingham.sch.uk

School phone number- 0118 966 9073 EXT: **610**

Direct phone number- 0118 909 8040

Our Senior Leadership Team



Sara Attra
Executive
Headteacher



Lynda Wood
Acting Co-
Headteacher



David Maycock
Acting Co-
Headteacher



Emer Moore
Acting Deputy
Headteacher



Eirfron
Watkinson
Assistant Head
teacher



Ellie Webb
Assistant Head
Leader of Addington
Early Years Centre



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.

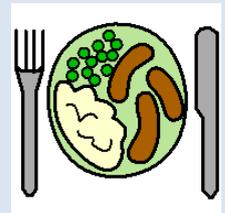
If you have any query or difficulty with payment of this amount, please let us know and we will endeavour to help.

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.

Free school meals and extra funding for your child's education

Please see message below from Wokingham Borough Council about eligibility to claim for free school meals. Even if your child already gets free school meals due to their age (Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 now qualify automatically for free school meals), if you qualify for one of the benefits listed below it is important to make an application for free school meals as your child will then qualify for extra funding for their education. More information can be found on the [free school meals page on the school website](#).

Across the UK more than 10 per cent of pupils who are eligible for free school meals do not register to get them.

We want to make sure 100 per cent of our pupils claim when they can in Wokingham Borough. Importantly, it also means schools can get additional funding to support pupils.

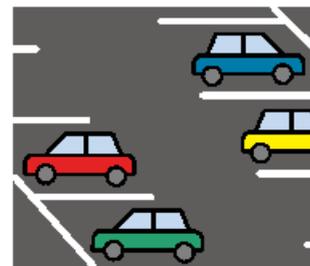
To qualify, your child must be in school and you must be receiving one of the following benefits:

- [Income support](#)
- Income based [Job Seekers Allowance](#)
- Income related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)
- [NASS support](#)
- Guarantee element of [State Pension](#)
- [Child Tax Credit](#), provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- [Working Tax Credit](#) for the four weeks after employment ends
- [Universal Credit](#), provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400

If this applies to you but your child isn't registered for free school meals, complete a form and return it to your child school.

[Download the form and apply for Free School Meals](#) on Wokingham Borough Council's website.

CAR PARKING REMINDER (MAIN SITE)



Please see 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 the 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 (Main Site – Woodley) 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	

Thank you for your continued support
David

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

To view our privacy notices, please see the [policies page](#) of the school website.

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

Ethan Nobes
Louie Cox
Monroe Emery
Tim Catnach-Rumkee

Key Stage 2

Masun Hussain

Key Stage 3

Ethan Rozycki
Jenna Geary
Mishika Kachhwaha

Key Stage 4

Alyan Kayani
Billy Sawyer
Sofia Baig

Key Stage 5

Malick Goodchild
Tony Su

Complex / Sensory & Access Needs

Thomas Bothwell
Viraj Sharma



SPORTS PAGE



After School Sports Club

This half-term the after school sports club pupils have been lucky to be coached by London Irish Rugby Club. They practised running, dodging, passing, scoring and running into tackle bags.



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2023-2024



This half-term, the boys in the Bronze DofE group have been doing more training walks, practicing more first aid and learning how to use a compass, reading maps and plotting routes.



Dates for Bronze expeditions:
Practice Expedition
Thursday 6th – Friday 7th June 2023
Qualifying Expedition
Wednesday 5th – Thursday 6th July 2023

Addington School Gingerbread Inter- house Competition Dec 2023



We hosted our fifth annual Gingerbread Inter-house competition recently. It was lovely to see all the finished biscuits and all the different designs and amazing Gingerbread houses. Everyone enjoyed the baking, decorating and eating.

The results were as follows:

- 1st Place – Green Crocodiles
- 2nd Place – Blue Sharks
- 3rd Place – Yellow Tigers
- 4th Place – Red Eagles

A huge thank you goes to **Amanda** for all her **hard work** in making this a success yet again and to all the heads of key stages, staff and students.



Golf Scholarship

One of our KS4 students has been awarded a 'Feel Inspired Golf Academy' scholarship at Sand Martins Golf Club. He has been practicing regularly and has impressed the staff at the golf club.



Santa Dash December 2023

During the last week of the Autumn Term, the PE department ran a Santa Dash for the pupils. They had to run, walk, scoot or travel around the school field. On each circuit they picked up a 'present', tinsel or bauble and hung it on the tree as they passed. Five times around the field and five Christmas items hung on the tree is equivalent to one mile travelled. When it was too cold or wet to go out, we set up an inside course around the school. Parents were asked to sponsor their child and any money the pupils raised was split between 2 charities: Diane Brimblecombe Animal Shelter and Camp Mohawk. The total was **£480**



The P.E department would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated to our annual **SANTA DASH**.



Early Years

Update from Addington Early Years Centre at Farley Hill

The second half term for our pupils at the Early Years Centre has flown by! The children have really settled into school now and are showing their understanding of our key routines. We've seen some really lovely progress in their communication, including in their interactions and joint attention with staff as these positive bonds have developed. Pupils are also starting to use PECS to make requests for a motivating item. It has been wonderful to watch the children increase their tolerance of sharing space with one another, as well as playing alongside each other this half term.

Construction work on phase 2 of the building continues and handover to us is currently expected in the late spring/early summer term. We look forward to seeing the spaces in phase 2 develop over the coming months.

Ellie Webb (Assistant Head)



Squirrel Class

Squirrel class pupils have had a busy and fun term, becoming more familiar with new routines and events including brushing our teeth daily! The children have enjoyed learning about this



term's topic about *Changes*. They have particularly shown an interest in our sensory stories; *Jasper's Beanstalk* and *Sam plants a Sunflower*, as well as exploration activities based on our assembly all about the *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

Many of the children have shown curiosity and interest in the changing weather. We have explored ice and its properties further, within our sensory play opportunities.

This half term the students have shown fantastic engagement with various communication strategies and have shown enthusiasm and willingness to participate in playful social interactions during our intensive interaction sessions.

Squirrel Class Team: Shannon, Yvonne, Freya, Alii, Chelsea, Marie and Sally

Hedgehog Class

This term in Hedgehog class we have been learning about *changes*. We've been looking at the story *Jasper's Beanstalk* and enjoying taking part in the sensory story. We have also been exploring changes in the weather. We've starting singing the weather song during *morning hello* and looking at what the weather is like each day, as well as listening to different weather sounds in our phonics sessions.

We've also been working on developing our independence and self-care skills. We have been trying lots of new foods through sensory and food play sessions, and have been learning how to use cutlery to feed ourselves. We've practiced using spoons to mix together ingredients, and using knives to practice chopping up fruits and spread chocolate spread on toast!



Bluebell Class

We have had another great term in Bluebell Class. Our topic this term has been *Changes*. In Communication, Language and Literacy we have been looking at the story '*The Enormous Turnip*'. The children have really enjoyed the practical element of this story, with some of the children saying 'pull, pull, pull'. In cooking, we have been practising chopping vegetables, their favourite vegetable to chop was leeks! In Maths we have enjoyed exploring number and shape, space and measure through Bucket- the children are working towards Stage 4! The children have really enjoyed learning about capacity through water and food play. They have been working really hard on their 'use of tools' skills in Waldon. The children have really enjoyed having the speaker out during playtimes; dancing along to the music or listening closely to the vibrations from the speaker. In PE lessons, the children have been doing rebound, all the children love jumping around on the trampoline!



Primrose Class

This term in Primrose class we have enjoyed learning about *Changes*. We have been reading '*The Enormous Turnip*' and learning to use words such as 'pull' and 'help'. We have enjoyed continuing with our Waldon and workstation learning, exploring numbers and placement of objects in different ways.



We have also loved looking at different types of food play and exploring how it changes when different foods are added together. We have enjoyed making pizza dough, adding toppings as well as combining ketchup and cocoa powder to make a coloured paste!



We have loved going to other activities outside the classroom such as Immersive Theatre and swimming and have been developing our transition and listening skills.

We have been very busy this term but have had a great time!

Tulip Class

This half term in Tulip class we have done some great learning through our topic '*Changes*'. In *Understanding the World* we learnt how an orange changes into juice! The children worked hard to squeeze the juice out and they loved drinking it!



In cooking we continued the theme of *changes* when making pizzas and looked at how the dough changed when cooked. The children used communication boards to choose their toppings.



This half term the children have really enjoyed their PE lessons. They have done fantastically well learning to sequence different jumps on the trampoline!



Daffodil Class

This term Daffodil Class have been learning about *Changes*. This has been a great topic, we have focused on changes that happen to plants and flowers as they grow and looking at the different types of weather. Another area that we have been looking at *Changes* is through food play. In our sessions, we have been looking at the different ways we can change food, through chopping / mashing, as well as adding sauces to rice to experience the colour and taste change. In Literacy, we have been working on developing our story telling skills by ordering the scenes and matching and exploring the characters, as well as developing our pencil control. Our Art focus this term has been using different vegetables to print and exploring how this can make our marks look different. We have also been developing our independence skills across the curriculum.



Sunflower Class

This term we have enjoyed exploring our new topic of '*Changes*' through our stories *Jasper's Beanstalk* and *Sam Plants a Sunflower*. We have explored props alongside the stories, and planted some beans ourselves. We've explored the life cycle of a bean through videos and sensory play activities, and have explored flowers and 'in the garden' sensory experiences through food play sessions. We are very excited to watch them grow!

In Maths we have continued to explore number and are learning the names of the numerals, engaging with number songs and counting with 1:1 correspondence, counting up to 3 and beyond. In cooking we have been making pizzas, focusing on cutting up different ingredients to use as toppings, and using a knife to cut vegetables to make a vegetable stir fry. The pupils have continued to make wonderful progress with their communication skills, starting to expand their use of communication boards across different activities, or using PECS increasingly independently.

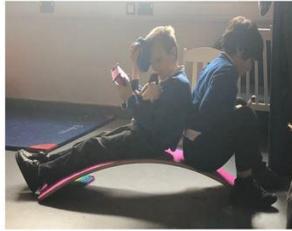


Early Years Yoga with Rainbow ☐ Claire

This term we have had lots of creative fun with our bodies and minds in our winter ☐ celebrations. We enjoyed a winter yoga flow that started with snowball, moving to sled, to snow dog and finishing with snowman. So much fun.

Our favourite breathing technique this term has been '**blow the feather**'. Take a deep breath in through the nose and blow the feather as hard as you can off your hand. How far can it go? We have all enjoyed the benefits of the relaxing flickering pillows during our meditation part of the lesson whilst lying in snake pose, great for our core, lower back and any digestion problems





Every BODY is a
YOGA BODY!



Daisy Class

Changing & Growing! Wow, this half term has flown by in Daisy class! With a focus on our new topic of *Changing and Growing*, everyone got so involved in our sensory story, *The Enormous Turnip*. We have pulled and pulled using a resistance band to mimic getting the turnip out of the ground, used 'call and response' to repeat key phrases in the story such as 'help', 'pull' and 'yum, yum'. We have listened carefully to farm animal noises in our phonics sessions and repeated the actions and Makaton signs in lots of farm based songs and nursery rhymes. Exploring the appearance and feel of different vegetables lead us to have a go at cutting them up for printing and mark making. Some of us even had a munch on courgettes, peppers and tomatoes during our circle times. In Attention Autism, we focussed on preparing pizza dough and looked at the changes after adding each ingredient. Then of course, we had to push and pull the dough to knead it. Moving outside, we decided to test our muscles by pushing and pulling the roundabout in the playground in a big Daisy class team effort and of course, there was lots of amazing movement in hydrotherapy as we practised our physio and swimming.



Key Stage 2

Oak Class

Our topic *Wriggle and Crawl* has lent itself to a focus on mini-beast based stories. As well as inspiring some great writing and communication we have been creative explorers - indoors and out! We were inspired by the antics of 'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson to build our own wormery and digging for worms to live in it. Our guests were only with us for a short time however and were released into the wild. When we moved onto, 'Arghh Spider' much to the relief of the adults in the room our pet spiders were of the furry toy variety. However we enjoyed being hunters with our magnifying glasses looking for our eight legged friends. All these stories have developed our PSHE and we have explored ideas about feelings and emotions, being kind to friends, looking after the environment and safety while we are out and about. Our final beastie is a bit less scary and the *Bad Tempered ladybird* by Eric Carle has inspired us to make red and black spotted Ladybird biscuits which tasted as sweet as they looked. We are extending our range of culinary delights each week in cooking and have made spidery pizzas and fruity faced toasts. We have recently started making trips to the Co-op on Woodlands Avenue to practice our shopping skills buying the ingredients for cooking. It is also an excellent opportunity to practice our road safety skills. As the weather warms up hopefully we will be able to get out into the community more and maybe into Woodley to make the most of the opportunities there. This week we have developed RE and knowledge about the world with a carousel of creative actives with our friends in KS2 based on Chinese New Year. We had beautiful weather for our trip to Taplow this week, everyone had a wonderful time running off lots of energy and it led to some great language and socialisation skills. Some of us even tried activities they hadn't tried before!



Pine Class

Pine class have had another busy term! We have been enjoying our new topic called *Hop, Wiggle and Crawl!* In Literacy, we have focused on a range of stories called 'Minibeasts, Arghh Spider and Super Worm'. We have enjoyed learning key features of different Minibeasts and learning about their habitats. We have enjoyed exploring our Sensory Garden to find different Minibeasts in their surroundings and we even made our very own wormery. Pine class thoroughly enjoy their Bucket sessions, where mostly the topic is incorporated, the children have enjoyed finding Minibeasts hidden in the mud! In Maths, we have focused on Weight, Capacity and Time. We have really enjoyed spending time with our friends in Explore Time too. In PSHE, we have been developing our independence skills as well as learning about Healthy Lifestyles. In RSE, we have been learning about our families; who they are and what they mean to us. In Cooking, we have been making Ladybird Pizzas, practicing key skills such as chopping, spreading and making independent choices; some pupils even experienced how to use an oven safely. This term, we also celebrated Chinese New Year where we made Lanterns, danced to Chinese music and explored some of the Chinese food culture using chopsticks. We also went to Taplow, we thoroughly enjoyed spending time in soft play, the sensory room and we even explored the outside! Lastly, we are very lucky to be having a very special visitor to Pine class every week, he has four legs, a fluffy tail and called Bailey 😊 Well done Pine Class for a fantastic term! 😊



Willow Class

We have been having lots of fun learning with our new topic, "Hop, Wiggle and Crawl". We have focussed on mini-beasts this half term and will move onto things animals that hop and waddle after the holidays. "Superworm" has been a popular text and we all enjoyed stuffing long socks to make our own superworms! Willow class have been learning to brush their teeth effectively in PSHE and began to learn the rules of crossing a road safely. We explored the woods and looked for bugs, learning about their habitats. We have particularly enjoyed finding out more about spiders....I wonder if the children can tell you any spider facts at home?

We recently held a Key Stage 2 carousel of activities to celebrate and learn about Chinese New Year. The children enjoyed dragon dancing and making Chinese music along with tasting traditional Chinese food and some crafts. Willow class have been learning how to double amounts and divide by sharing equally..... a great test will be to see if they can share their pancakes fairly on Shrove Tuesday!

Have a lovely Half Term Holiday!



Chinese Dragon Dancing!



Our Woodland Adventure!



Rowan Class

Welcome to our newsletter. We have had lots of fun with our new topic *hop, wriggle and crawl* this term. The children have enjoyed learning about different animal characteristics, from insects all the way through to fish. They have been able to sort them into mammal, amphibian, reptile, bird, fish and insect, then go on to label different animal parts, as well as understanding whether they are a herbivore, carnivore or omnivore. They have really impressed me at how many facts they have managed to remember and some of the children have been able to explain in detail how they are different too. We have used all this knowledge to sort animals in different ways, and practice our data handling skills to create charts and graphs. For our book the children have loved the story of *Superworm*, and we have seen some great acting and drama as we retell the story. They have created their own mind maps and written some fantastic sentences. In P.S.H.E we have looked at how to keep our minds healthy, and how making connections with other people can help us through playing a game of finding out as much as we could about each other by asking questions. For Chinese New Year Key Stage 2 held a carousel of activities to celebrate and learn about all about it. There was dragon dancing, making Chinese music, tasting traditional Chinese food and some lovely craft making going on. The children have worked so hard this term they all deserve a well-earned rest.

Wishing you all a lovely Half Term Holiday!



Complex and Sensory Needs Department

Cherry Class

This half term we have been enjoying our Traditional Tales theme and our story focus has been the *Jolly Postman*. We have all engaged with posting different sensory letters into our post box and exploring the different fairy tale characters the postman meets along the way.

In assembly we have enjoyed some sensory versions of old stories, we tried porridge from *The Three Bears* and helped make bread for *The Little Red Hen*. Our Sensology session has been exploring the different senses when visiting a library.

We have continued to have hydrotherapy and our weekly highlight is our Yoga and Music therapy sessions with Karen and Claire!

Have a lovely half term



Poppy Class

In Poppy class this half term we have been enjoying the *traditional tales* theme, we have liked the *Hansel and Gretel* story and created some lovely gingerbread house art using string and beads. We have been listening to lots of different stories each week and using different ways to show if we enjoyed them or talk about the story.

Rebound has been fun and we are all really anticipating when we are going to bounce. We continue to work hard on our targets and we have been going off on the yellow brick road for drama and music.

We have started some sensory cooking sessions each week and have made porridge and angel delight (with lots of exploration and mess!) some of us have also loved eating what we make!



Apple Class

We have had a very busy term in Apple Class. All students enjoyed listening a lot of stories as our topic this term has been 'Fairy tales'.

We have been working really hard in our phonics lessons and enjoyed sounding out the animals, musical instruments and making the body percussion sounds such as a clap or tap our knees.

Our *Write Dance* lessons have seen us concentrate hard on following the pattern using edible items such as breadsticks and custard.

We have been incredibly creative in our art lessons making a lot of little pigs using our feet and building a lot of houses using paper and twigs.

In early maths lessons we have been concentrating on counting the three little pigs and their houses and three chairs, three bowls of porridge, three beds, and the three title characters who live in the house for *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* story. It has been a busy term full of amazing achievements by all of the students and we look forward to seeing what the next term will bring.



Key Stage 3

Aspen Class

We have started our topic of 'Scrumdiddlyumptious' this term. We are learning all about making and reviewing chocolate, trying foods from around the world and cooking our own meals. In maths, we have been learning about number, shape and measure. We have been using our new skills to identify the shapes in nature and in the food that we eat, hexagons in Crunchie bars and cuboids in Quality Street! In maths, we are also focussing on measure and capacity to revisit our prior learning from last term. We have been measuring the weights of different items around the classroom and comparing weights of different foods. We have been discussing density, for example, why does a whole bag of spinach weigh the same as 25 raisins, even though they are smaller?

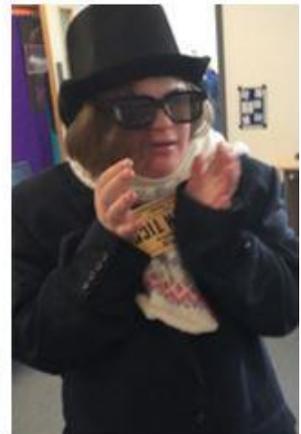


In literacy, we have been looking at *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*. We have broken down the book into small bite size chunks and have been learning about what happens to all the characters throughout the story. We have been describing delicious chocolate bars, sumptuous sweeties and giant gobstoppers! In RHSE we are learning about puberty, and in science we are also looking at chemical reactions between elements. For PE we have been practising our trampolining and circuit skills. We have been walking to the Co-op to practice our communication, maths and safety skills. Also, we have been going to Camp Mohawk to make nature art! Finally, this term we have started swimming at Bulmershe and enjoy being independent whilst travelling over to the pool.

Cedar Class

In Cedar Class we had another lovely half term, full of fun activities and learning. This half term we have been looking into the story of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' which quickly became one of our favourite stories! We absolutely loved tasting different kinds of chocolate and experimenting with different textures, for example observing how a bar of chocolate can melt into liquid when it gets warm. We also loved doing some role play and dressing up like one of the main characters, Willie Wonka!

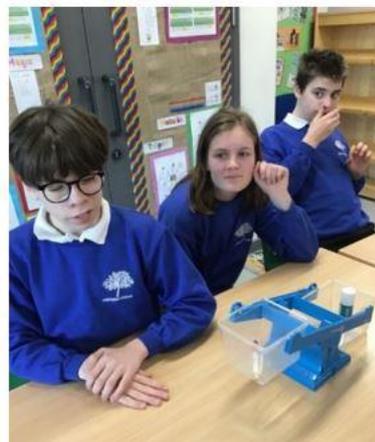
This half term we also starting going swimming to Bulmershe Leisure Centre. We really enjoy going in the pool and we are making a lot of progress every week! In Maths we carried on learning about Number and we also compared different items according to their weight. We practised counting money and we had the chance to practise exchanging money by going to the local shop. We also talked about relationships and feelings and find ways to keep us regulated.



Chestnut Class

This term we have been reading Charlie and The Chocolate Factory in Literacy. The students are all enjoying listening to the story and are familiar with the different characters. We are just about to read the chapter about Augustus Gloop going up the chocolate factory pipe! We have a lovely display which includes lots of the students' artwork.

In Work-Related Learning the students continue with their weekly bike maintenance lessons. We have 2 trips coming up, to the Museum of Rural Life and our Try a Train Day. These have been organised by the Work-Related Learning staff at our school. In PSHE we have been learning how to do basic first aid, such as the Primary Survey, the recovery position and learning to make a call to 999 for an ambulance. In Maths we are studying numbers to 100. We have been playing Snakes and Ladders. We have also been weighing with scales and working on coin recognition.



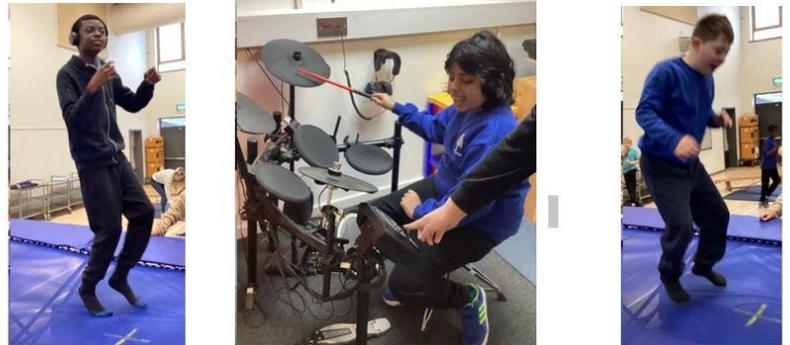
Maple Class

Maple class have started their learning '**scrumdiddlyumptious**' topic this term with 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. We are working our way through the book exploring the characters, tasting chocolate as well as designing and making our own chocolate bars.



In maths, we focused on weight (heavy and light), money (coins and notes) and capacity full and empty, as well as looking at and using kilograms and grams and millilitres and litres.

In PSHE we have exploring how we feel and how others might feel. We have had 3 great trips to Camp Mohawk. The highlight of the half term was PE and trampolining. It has been great to see the confidence building over the half term.



Elm class

Aisla: I have enjoyed Art and Literacy this half term. I like studying Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Also, I like my Cello lessons with Bryony.

Ruby: I like spending time with my friends and doing Drama club!

Ryan: I have enjoyed doing Rock Band with my friends!

Dylan: I like playing with my friends at school. We play Uno at Leisure time - it is fun!

Tom: I liked Rock Band this half term! I like Computing and it has been fun to use the trampoline in PE too!

Milena: I love Horticulture and swimming this term! I like doing PE because we are using the trampoline.

Fabio: I enjoyed chilling at playtime and doing my own drawings. I love doing Art club and Drama club and Dance club.

Angelo: I love learning about Wonka! I know all about it because I have seen the new Wonka film. It is my favourite film!

Tommy: I have enjoyed going off site to cafes this term, and swimming too!

Daisy: I like Drama lessons and going to Drama club. I like going to the shops to get our cooking ingredients too.

Austin: I love Art this term and I have enjoyed doing PSHE this term too, learning how to do CPR.

Reid: I enjoy learning about topics that will help me when I am an adult.

Jay: I go to football club at lunchtime, and I scored a goal last week!





Access Department (Formally known as the Therapeutic Department)

Beech class

It has been a super busy term, with some definite cold snaps!

We continue to follow our class timetable, with regular literacy and maths sessions. We have been studying the real story of the 3 little pigs, which is a version of the story but told from the wolf's perspective. This has created some interesting discussions in class about who was the real baddie!

In maths we have been looking at financial awareness, including budgeting, the different ways we can spend and save money and more importantly the value of items. Some of the students were quite surprised about how much things actually cost, as we have been looking on websites at games, food and Lego.

Cooking is always a popular lesson and this half term we have been making flapjacks. The adults stand back and let the students take control, they are amazing. They are really demonstrating increased levels of independence and teamwork.

We enjoyed a trip to the Reading Museum of Rural Life. This was brilliant as we had the museum to ourselves, and there was a whole range of activities, including handling some of the artefacts with special gloves and being able to see the resident chickens. It was a great place to go and I am hoping we can go back in the summer term.

This term we started swimming at Bulmershe Leisure Centre on a Friday afternoon which is a lovely end to the week. They are making great progress with their swimming.

All of Beech class wish you a happy half term and here's hoping for some warmer weather and sunshine.

Clare and the Beech class Team.





Birch Class

It has been a busy but highly rewarding first spring half term for Birch class! We have been enjoying our *Traditional Tales* theme, where we've created art work inspired by stories such as *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* and *The Gingerbread Man*. We've been exploring objects including feathers, jelly beans, scarf beanstalks and percussion instruments during *Jack and the Beanstalk* Sensory Story sessions and the pupils have loved describing various pictures of each other for Colourful Semantics. Our Immersive Theatre sessions have been themed around the *Wizard of Oz* and we enjoy Make Sense Theatre sessions to start our Monday mornings. The class have also been hugely motivated by using the trampoline in PE and changing tempo from slow to quick when playing instruments in Music. We look forward to continuing our topics after a well eared half term rest!



Holly Class

Holly class has had another busy and productive half term. The class have enjoyed our theme of Traditional tales where we have immersed the pupils in a range of stories through TAC PAC, Resonance board poems, themed cognition sessions and songs.

This half term we were lucky enough to have Make Sense Theatre back once a week. The pupils were pleased to have them back and each week we saw increased engagement and interactions. We can't wait for them come back in the summer term.

We have also begun a new life skill lesson where the pupils have been learning to fold clothes, peg clothes onto a washing line and hang clothes onto hangers with varying degrees of support. We will continue with these sessions after half term and build on these skills further.

In cooking we have been making oat biscuits where some pupils have following multi-step visual recipes and others have been tolerating touching and exploring unfamiliar ingredients.

This half term we have seen increased engagement with our pupils and we will be adding more whole class and personalized lessons into the class weekly timetable to continue to encourage this increased engagement, especially with group activities. The Holly team are extremely proud of the progress the class have made in all areas of our curriculum and with their personal targets.



Lime class

Regulation is still our priority. In Lime class the children try to find ways to regulate themselves all the time. Our trips to Thames Valley Adventure Playground and Camp Mohawk have helped them to explore different rooms, the outdoor area and engage with activities like Art.

The students have been engaging with their personalised activities, which assist them to develop their cognition and life skills.



Key Stage 4

Falcon Class

A term of new experiences: We had a great session with Maddy from GWR learning about all the equipment used by the staff at the railways.



Then we travelled from Wokingham to Reading and explored the stations.



We have also been to Pizza Express in Wokingham for a fantastic work ready experience.



For life long leisure we have enjoyed a fun bhangra dance session.



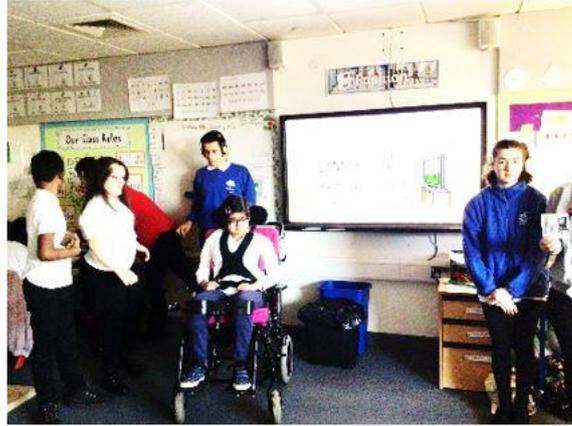
Kite Class

Our Theme for the Spring Term is 'Fast Fashion'. The pupils have familiarised themselves with the local charity shops by completing exercises where they have had to find clothing for certain weathers, clothing made of specific materials or clothing to fit in with a certain theme in charity shops. The pupils have just started to design their own t-shirts based on the idea of upcycling a plain white t-shirt. Following on from our PHSE work about improving mental health by doing more things that make us happy, the pupils have thought about designs for printing a picture of something that makes them happy onto a t-shirt. Their ideas range from The Strictly Judges to Japanese writing to their favourite foods. This week we will have a practise run at printing pictures found on google images onto t-shirts, tie dying t-shirts and using fabric pens to draw designs onto t-shirts before the pupils come up with their final designs and will upcycle their t-shirts before the Easter Holidays. We had a great day when the pupils and staff all came dressed in themed clothes. The themes were *Camouflage*, *Party Party* or *Rainbow Bright*. The pupils described their own and others clothes, guessed what themes each other had chosen and wrote about their outfits. The same day we went out for lunch at Cozze. The pupils had practised ordering several times in the classroom before we went. On the day all pupils ordered their own food either verbally or through pointing. We all enjoyed socialising and eating together and the pupils behaved impeccably. They were a credit to Addington.

In our weekly Kitchen Skills sessions we are now preparing and cooking our own lunch. The idea is that we have chosen a lunch that the pupils may be able to prepare for themselves in the future (rather than a fancy meal with lots of ingredients). This half term we are making pasta and sauce with grated cheese and cut up fruit and cake for dessert. By making the same meal every week the pupils are becoming more efficient week by week at the skills needed.

P.E. this half term has been rebound therapy – trampolining, which seems to be very popular amongst the pupils. In our weekly trips to Ridgeline, a therapeutic garden, the highlight this half term seems to have been learning about the layers in a compost heap and making their own mini layered compost 'heaps' within a plastic bottle which they are watching slowly biodegrade over time. We continue to have a huge focus on crossing roads safely, paying for items in shops and we still somehow manage to fit in Phonics and individual reading two or three times a week.



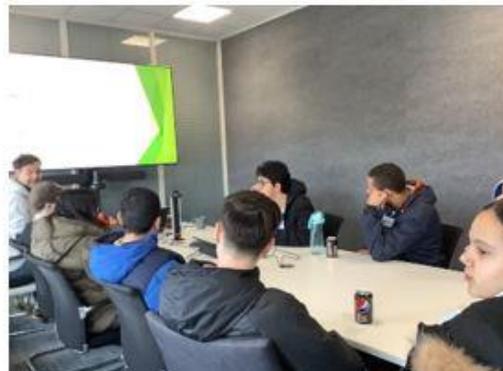


Swan Class

Project – Fast fashion - This term, students will be focusing on the topic of 'Fast Fashion'. Students have created a research project of Fashion throughout the ages and presented it to their peers. All students will be participating in the Fashion Show on the 22nd March. Students have designed and will upcycle a plain white t-shirt to present at the Fashion show. Students are also going into the community to go to Charity shops to buy an outfit for a member of Swan class with a £20 budget.



Work Ready Days - On Friday 2nd November, Swan class went to the Microsoft HQ in Reading to take part in a Work Ready day. Students have to find glitches and bugs within games, spoke to different members of the Microsoft Community and had a tour of the Microsoft Office space.



Careers Fair - On Thursday 25th January, Students went to the Woodley Job fair. Students had prepared some questions and were able to talk to employers about different career opportunities they had available.



Life Skills - In cooking this term students have chosen some of their favourite dishes and have been making their own two-course lunch. Some of the dishes they have made so far have been Macaroni Cheese with homemade garlic bread, Sausage and Mash with mixed vegetables, Pasta bake, and Jacket potatoes with a variety of different fillings and seasonal salad. Students are not only enjoying working together in small teams but also serving the food and sitting down to eat together.



In travel training students have been out in the community planning journeys on local buses in and around Woodley and Reading. They have a variety of jobs to do when out including weekly shopping for cooking but also as part of our fast fashion project they have been visiting a variety of clothing shops and charity shops.



Sixth Form News

Kestrel Class

Some of the Kestrel students have been attending sessions in the gym at Bulmershe Leisure Centre. Most have enjoyed discovering the variety of training equipment they could use to stay healthy.



This term, students have been working to roll out a recycling project they have developed. They have sourced items, designed logos and worked to distribute the finished product to students in 6th form.



Work experience continues for our leavers. They have been gaining valuable experience in a variety of workplaces in preparation for potential future opportunities.



Kestrel class visited Milestones museum in Basingstoke to discover what fashion and life looked like in the past. They particularly enjoyed being in a Victorian classroom!



Cooking lessons have continued. Students are now beginning to choose their own recipes. Baguette pizzas have been a firm favourite



Owl Class

Owl class has had a great start to 2024. Our new topic is Fast Fashion, so we have been enjoying exploring lots of different materials and clothes. We have been creative with different materials in Art, making bobble hats and scarves out of card, cotton wool, buttons, and ribbon. We have been exploring the feel of different materials during our weekly TAC PAC sessions, as well as learning about how to dress for the weather during our sensory story.

Owl class has also been learning about Fast Fashion while out and about in the community. We have visited lots of charity shops in Woodley, Wokingham and Reading town centre and have been donating old clothes to them. We have enjoyed visiting lots of different high-street clothes shops, a couple of us choosing new items of clothing to buy. There has been great communication when interacting with people in shops and cafes. Keep up the good work everyone, and have a lovely half term!



Robin Class

The highlight of our half term in Robin class has been a visit to Pizza Express for a work ready day! We learnt all about working in a pizzeria from Marco and Dave who guided us through the process of making and shaping the base, adding the toppings and cooking the pizza. We learnt that sometimes things happen at work that you don't like, such as dropping something, getting too hot, or having to wear a uniform you wouldn't usually choose to wear, but that it is all part of having a job! We also learnt that having a job can be great fun; meeting new people, making food you like and enjoying the feeling of making others happy. Pizza Express were fantastic hosts and also accommodated our very complex allergies, intolerances and preferences!



Horticulture

This half term the horticulture department students have been learning about what things are able to grow in the winter months, They sowed seeds from a salad tomato and placed them in a propeergator where the seeds have grown into small tomato plants and will now keep these indoors until the weather improves. We also planted out some garlic and looked at the differnece between tender and hardy plants.

There is lots of spring prepping underway and we are working on our Newbury challenge projects also.



Hospitality

This half term the Hospitality students have been working hard toward their City & Guilds qualification, with all 6 students successfully completing their Customer Service and Introduction to Hospitality units.

We have been keeping staff fed with the KORE café every week, experimenting with recipes the students have found online for different cakes and bakes. We have also been looking into different techniques when baking and practising these to expand our kitchen skills.

The students have already started looking into lots of Easter recipes we can make for the café so we look forward to a busy half term at the KORE Café!



News from the Workshop

Yet another busy term!!

In line with the 6th form project we have been upcycling scraps of fabric by stitching them together to make larger pieces. These will be used to make new items and cutting emblems for t-shirts and bags to personalise them and make them funky. We are continuing our knowledge that some things create fashion successes and others are fashion disasters. What do you think of our choices?

Kestrel class have finished their project where they learnt to make stencils and then screen print them before ironing to set the fabric dye.

Students have also been designing cards for different occasions looking carefully at colour choices to see if they clash or compliment. They have also made some bespoke balloon orders as staff have had significant birthdays.



Eagle Class

Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up. This half of the spring term has certainly been a mixed bag, but our young people in Eagle class have proved by their resilience that there is really no such thing as bad weather. Despite January and February, believed by many to bring on the Winter Blues. The buoyant members of Eagle class have been upbeat and enthusiastic enjoying a multifaceted curriculum in our 6th Form.

Once again over this half term, our young people have enjoyed a number of activities in the wider community to develop their social, leisure, independence and life skills.

Some of the highlights have been doing work experience in school and in the wider community. Students have enjoyed attending and getting a flavour of college life, doing the links courses at either Reading College or Bracknell and Wokingham College. To access lifelong leisure and sporting activities, some of our young people have enjoyed weekly swimming sessions at the Bulmershe Leisure Centre on Mondays; and badminton at the Woodford Park Leisure Centre or used the Gym at the Bulmershe Leisure Centre, on Thursdays.

While some students are pursuing a City and Guilds in Horticulture each week, others have continued to enjoy visiting The Ridgeline Trust to learn about and have a sensory experience in gardening.

With our project this term being Fast Fashion our young people have been focussing on looking at fashions down the ages and designing different items of clothing. They have also enjoyed making picture frames and doing applique work during weekly Business Enterprise sessions. During hands on and work experience sessions students learn about the importance of Health and safety and team work in the work place. Focus has also been on town and travel training.

After a busy half term, a well-deserved break is looked forward to when each one of us can recharge our batteries in readiness for another rather busy and activity filled half term ahead.

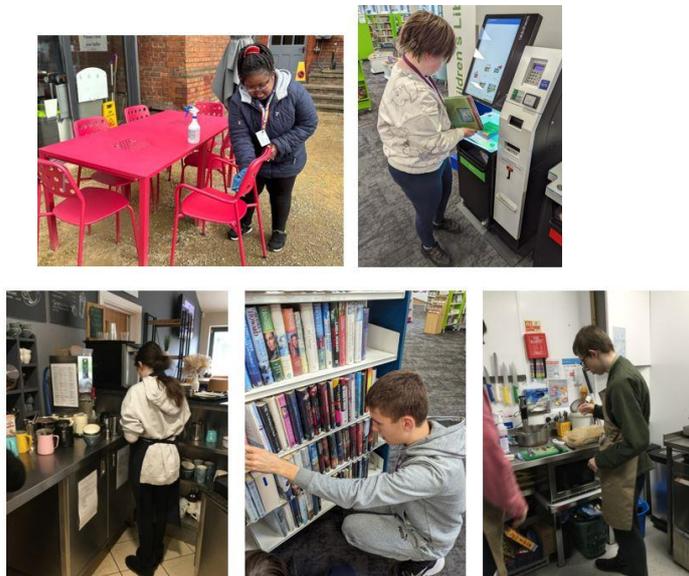
Eagle class wishes all a safe and enjoyable half term break.

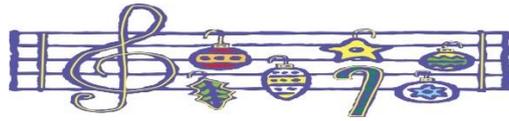




KS5 Careers

This half term students have completed work experience placements at businesses such as; Wokingham Library, Finchampstead Baptist Church, Decathlon and Barista & Beyond. They have been developing their work skills in independence, using initiative, timekeeping, communicating with colleagues and interacting with customers.





The Creative Arts Page

This term, the whole school are following same theme in their creative arts lessons as we work towards our whole school production of 'The Wizard of Oz'.

Drama

Classes have been learning about the story of 'The Wizard of Oz' through an introduction assembly with Sean and Carla. They were introduced to the main characters, songs and key moments of the story. In their drama sessions, classes have been focussing on specific scenes in relation to the production. Rehearsals have begun with the lead characters too.



In immersive theatre, students have been developing sensory awareness through experiencing a wide range of sensory props, storytelling, music and sound. We explore the 8 senses through our sessions as we travel to the Land of Oz.

- Vision - we have a Lion shadow screen.
- Hearing - music from 'The Wizard of Oz' including singing "Follow the Yellow Brick Road/We're Off to See the Wizard" and using a microphone with high reverb to make sounds.
- Smell/Taste – Tea (to represent oil for the Tin man)
- Touch – Toto (dog teddy), slime (cornflour and water), yellow textured mats, wool (to represent
- Vestibular – use of parachute (to represent hot air balloon)
- Proprioception – Tornado – use of fans
- Interoception - notice and acknowledge students reactions how they might be feeling.

Music

All students have been journeying to the Land of Oz, to coincide with our preparations for the production in April. Early Years have been exploring different rhythms and tempos using the resonance board and learning to identify different sounds and/or how instruments are played, for example, shake or tap a tambourine.



Sensory sessions have explored low and high pitch notes while singing 'Over the Rainbow', with pupils taking turns to play these different pitches. The pupils have worked on their anticipation skills and awareness of song structure in 'Ding, Dong', changing our playing on

a set of a bells between a set rhythm and a fast ring, like an alarm clock! For the song 'The Merry Old Land of Oz' we have focused on our vocalisation and interaction skills.

The other key stages have been exploring octaves with the song 'Over the Rainbow', which famously starts with an octave jump in the melody. Pupils have been singing the song, and learning to play it on xylophones or keyboards. After this, some pupils travelled through the ages, listening to multiple different cover versions from across the decades, learning about covers and having a go at playing some of the different instruments contained within some of the covers. These included ukulele (Israel Kamakawiwo'ole), acoustic guitar (Eva Cassidy), electric guitar, bass and drum kit (Me First and the Gimme Gimme's). After exploring these different versions, the pupils created their own cover versions. Some students have explored rhythm reading and playing with claves and drums for the song 'Yellow Brick Road', with pupils taking it in turns to lead each other through tempo changes.

Art

Students have been making props for different scenes in the show. Poppies, sweetcorn, apples and the Emerald City gates are some of the props made so far.





Upcoming Events

Here are key dates for your diary in 2024:

- 'The Wizard of Oz' Production – Tuesday 30th April and Thursday 2nd May
- Proms Week – Monday 1st July – Friday 5th July

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 half term!

The Creative Arts Team



THE MAGIC OF MUSIC □ AND YOGA □

Our magic of music and yoga sessions run by Claire, (yoga teacher) and Karen, (music therapist) have continued this half term for Poppy and Cherry classes. We have continued with the same routine so the students are getting used to the format and know what to expect, but within this we introduce different themes. Our most recent theme was Chinese New Year so instead of sharing a string of scarves we looked at and felt a banner with gold dragons, and we also had smaller dragons so each student could see one dancing. We played instruments along to Chinese dragon music, and our breathing technique included ohms and smelling tangerines, which are a Chinese tradition for New Year. Our soft brushes at the end of the session give time for relaxing and preparing for the session to end. The students' smiles each week and relaxed demeanour show us how much they are benefitting from and enjoying these sessions.



Chinese New Year Greetings - Kung Hei Fat Choi (gōng xǐ fā cái) is traditional Chinese New Year greeting meaning: Congratulations and best wishes for a prosperous New Year, Happy New Year Everyone!



News from the Association

Email: AddingtonAssociation@gmail.com

The Addington Association is busy planning ahead for events for the year. The first of these is our Annual General Meeting, which is scheduled for 1830-1930 hrs on Wednesday 20th March 2024.

This will be an on-site event at Addington School, and all are welcome - but please email (see below) in advance to let us know you are coming. At the AGM, we will look at what we've accomplished over the year, play back our financial position, look ahead to the next year and most importantly - we will elect the chair, treasurer and secretary for the year. The association is run by volunteers from the Addington Parent Carer community and support and input is very welcome! If you wish to attend, or are interested in any of the roles or in providing any other support to the association, please get in touch with us at addingtonassociation@gmail.com.

Looking further out, we are investigating the possibility of a summer fayre and discussing any funding goals with the school leadership team. If you have any ideas for fun fundraising events, want to volunteer or want to know more, please get in touch at addingtonassociation@gmail.com! You can also follow our Facebook page at facebook.com/AddingtonAssociation

Nicola Perkins and Chris Bothwell
Co-Chairs, Addington Association



ADDINGTON SCHOOL TERM DATES 2023 - 2024



Addington School

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
Inset Day (closed to pupils)	Friday 25 October 2024
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November 2024 inclusive
Inset Days (closed to pupils)	Monday 4 November 2024
Term Restarts	Tuesday 5 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
Friday 25 October 2024
Monday 4 November 2024
Friday 23 May 2025